FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-068
Monday
9 April 1990

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-068 *9 April 1990*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

AMU Ministers Condemn U.S. Jerusalem Decision *[Rabat Radio]* 1
King Hassan Receives Jerusalem Committee Members *[Rabat Radio]* 1
King Husayn-Mubarak News Conference Reported *[Amman Radio]* 1
AFP Reports 'Arafat Calls for 'Holy War' 3

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat on Hostages, Intifadah, Immigration *[Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I 5 Apr]* 3
Islamic Jihad 'Leader' on Anti-Israel Operations *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 3
'Arafat Message to Sierra Leone Seminar Noted *[Sanaa VOP]* 4
Khalaf on Israeli 'Crisis,' Eastern Front *[Kuwait AL-ANBA' 4 Apr]* 4

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Pro-Islamic Salvation Front Demonstrations Held *[Paris International]* 7
Prosecutor Statement on 'Riots' *[Algiers TV]* 7
Official Committee To Investigate Corruption *[Algiers Radio]* 7
Mouloud Hamrouche on Campaign To Combat Bribes *[Algiers TV]* 7
National Front for Renewal Party Platform *[Algiers Radio]* 8
Announcement of New Political Party Reported *[Algiers Radio]* 8

Egypt

Mubarak Comments on 'Campaign' Against Iraq *[Cairo Radio]* 8
Expresses Regret Over 'Campaign' *[MENA]* 9
Mubarak Telephones Iraqi President Saddam *[MENA]* 9
Visits Baghdad, Returns *[MENA]* 9
Comments During 'Lightning Visit' *[MENA]* 9
Interior Minister Musa on 'Sectarian Sedition' *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 5 Apr]* 10
'Abd-al-Majid on Emigration, Regional Ties *[AL-SIYASAH 4 Apr]* 12
'Abd-al-Majid Meets Israeli Deputy Darawshah *[MENA]* 13
ADP Leader Comments on Government Situation *[MENA]* 14
'Abd-al-Majid Meets Pakistani Foreign Minister *[MENA]* 14
PLO's 'Abbas, Hurani Arrive in Cairo 8 Apr *[MENA]* 14
West German Official Cites Mubarak on Saddam *[Cairo Radio]* 15
Newspaper Views Aims of 'Anti-Iraq Hysteria' *[AL-AHRAM 5 Apr]* 15
Arab Action Urged on Israeli Threats and Dangers *[MENA]* 15
Collective Stand Urged Against U.S., Israeli *[AL-AHALI 4 Apr]* 16
Commander on Better Border Guard Performance *[AL-AKHBAR 4 Apr]* 16
Plans for Steel Factories, USSR Assistance *[Cairo Radio]* 17

Morocco

Leaders Arrive for Jerusalem Committee Meetings 17
Syria's Al-Shar' Arrives *[Damascus Radio]* 17

'Arafat Arrives *[Rabat Radio]* 17
'Arafat Delivers Speech *[Rabat Radio]* 17
Saddam Thanks King Hassan for Support *[INA]* 18

IRAQ

Saddam, Egypt's Mubarak Conduct News Conference *[INA]* 19

ISRAEL

Further Reaction To Peres Before 11 Apr Vote 23
Sharir Supports Alignment *[Jerusalem TV]* 23
Discussion on Sharir, Coalition *[Jerusalem TV]* 23
Olmert on Sharir's Move *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
Rally for Electoral Reform *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
Peres on Israel-Palestine Meeting *[AFP]* 24
Alignment, Left-Wing on Guidelines *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
Moda'i Negotiations Not Over *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
Alignment, Moda'i To Reconvene *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25

LEBANON

Reportage on Hostage Threat, Possible Release 26
ICRC Comments on Threat *[RFL]* 26
Group Seeking Valente Release *[AFP]* 26
FRC on Release of Swiss *[AFP]* 26
Valente Release To Proceed *[VOL]* 26
Further on Hostage Release *[Paris Radio]* 26
Ja'ja' Said Targeted for Assassination 31 Mar *[Voice of National Resistance]* 27
Ja'ja' Interview With Media on 'Initiative' *[RFL]* 27
Further on Ja'ja' Interview *[RFL]* 27
Al-Huss on Call To Take Over Army Barracks *[Beirut Radio]* 28
Skirmishes in Kasrawan; Sniper Fire in E. Beirut *[Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon]* 28
Amal, Hizballah Clash Reported in Suburb *[VOL]* 28
Amal, Israeli Forces Clash in Southern Area *[RFL]* 28

SYRIA

USSR 'To Refurbish' Aircraft, Air Defenses *[Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD 6 Apr]* 29
Al-Fahum Addresses Ba'th Party Anniversary Rally *[Damascus TV]* 29
Al-Ahmar Addresses Rally *[Damascus TV]* 31

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Deaths, Injuries Reported During Herat Ceremony 32
7 Generals, 25 Officials Killed *[AFP]* 32
General Buried With 'Top' Honors *[AFP]* 32
Najibullah Mourns Slain General *[Kabul Radio]* 32
'Fragility' of Regime's Policy *[AFP]* 33
Najibullah Issues Statement *[Kabul Radio]* 33
Najibullah Visits Ambush Victims *[BAKHTAR]* 34
'Massacre' Aimed at Najibullah *[AFP]* 34
Rebels Launch New Offensive in Khowst District *[AFP]* 35
*Zahir Shah Denounces Regime's 'Illegality' *[Rome IL TEMPO 18 Mar]* 35

India

'Subversives' Kidnap Professor, Factory Manager *[Delhi TV]* 36
Threaten To Kill Hostages *[Delhi Radio]* 36

Soviet Official Says Kashmir 'Internal Problem' *[Delhi Radio]* 36
BJP Warns Against Inaction on Kashmir *[Delhi Radio]* 36
BJP Meeting Adopts Resolution on Kashmir *[Delhi Radio]* 36
Indefinite Curfew Set in Srinagar, Other Towns *[Delhi Radio]* 37
BJP Urges 'Hot Pursuit' Into Azad Kashmir *[AFP]* 37
Janata Dal Blames Congress-I on Kashmir Problem *[Delhi Radio]* 38
4 Kashmiri Militants Arrested; 1 Believed Dead *[Delhi Radio]* 38
Premier Asks Punjab To Control Terrorism *[Delhi Radio]* 38
Curfew in Gujarat As Death Toll Mounts to 39 *[Delhi Radio]* 38
'Dreaded Terrorist' Killed in Punjab 8 April *[Delhi Radio]* 39
Singh Condemns Gujarat Violence, Urges Calm *[Delhi Radio]* 39
V.P. Singh Orders Inquiry Into Phone Tapping *[Delhi Radio]* 39
Forces Said Ready To Meet Foreign Aggression *[Delhi Radio]* 39
Congress-I on 'Tough Stand' Against Pakistan *[Delhi Radio]* 39
BJP Demands 'Security Belt' on Pakistan Border *[Delhi Radio]* 40
Cuban Foreign Minister Malmierca Arrives *[Delhi Radio]* 40
Gujral Hosts Dinner *[Delhi Radio]* 40
Janata Dal, Congress-I Condemn Nepal Repression *[Delhi Radio]* 40
Deputy Prime Minister Resigns From Party Post *[Delhi Radio]* 40

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Conducts Friday Prayers *[Tehran Radio]* 40
Addresses Jewish Emigration *[Tehran Radio]* 41
Arabic Friday Sermon Reported *[Tehran International]* 42
Majles Speaker Assails U.S., Israel in Session *[Tehran Radio]* 42
Yazdi Comments on Immigration, Peace Talks *[Tehran Radio]* 43
Opposition Group Warns of 'New Revolution' *[AFP]* 43
Government Devaluing Rial by '90 Percent' *[Belgrade TANJUG]* 43
Saddam 'Ordered' Chemical Attacks on Deserters *[Tehran International]* 44
Daily Comments on Need To Attack Israel *[IRNA]* 44
Paper Urges Upholding Revolutionary Values *[IRNA]* 44
Armed Forces Confiscate Insurgents' Weapons *[Tehran Radio]* 45

Nepal

Police Fire on Demonstrators, Kill at Least 10 *[AFP]* 45
100 Demonstrators Said Killed *[KYODO]* 45
Army Reportedly Called *[Delhi Radio]* 46
'Indefinite Curfew' Imposed in Kathmandu, Patan *[AFP]* 46
Demonstrations Continue *[AFP]* 46
Further on Curfew *[AFP]* 47
Curfew Extended in Kathmandu *[AFP]* 48
Army Leaves Area *[AFP]* 48
Curfew Lifted; Shooting Continues *[AFP]* 48
Six More Deaths Reported *[BBC]* 48
King Names 'Restricted Four-Member Cabinet' *[AFP]* 49
Detainees Freed; Inquiry Commission Created *[AFP]* 49
Officials Urge King To End Partyless System *[AFP]* 49
Prime Minister Meets Nepali Congress Leader *[Delhi Radio]* 50
Government Officials Meet Opposition Leaders *[AFP]* 50
Opposition Wants New System Before Dialogue *[Delhi Radio]* 51
King To Declare Multiparty System *[AFP]* 51
Ban 'Lifted' on Multiparty System *[AFP]* 51
Opposition Calms Movement *[AFP]* 51
More on Lifting Ban *[Delhi Radio]* 52
Consultations for Interim Government Begin *[Tokyo KYODO]* 52

Pakistan

'At Least Seven' Killed in Karachi Clashes *[AFP]* 52

Overnight Clashes Claim 11 *[Islamabad International]* 53
2 More Killed *[Islamabad Radio]* 53
Muhajir Leader Hunger Strikes *[Islamabad Radio]* 53
Army Called In; More Killed *[Delhi Radio]* 54

Sri Lanka

Opposition Leader Calls for 'United Campaign' *[AFP]* 54

Inter-Arab Affairs

AMU Ministers Condemn U.S. Jerusalem Decision

LD0604215690 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Excerpt] The first conference of the ministers of religious endowments and Islamic affairs of the Arab Maghreb Union member states ended today in Rabat. This conference resulted in a number of recommendations likely to contribute to the consolidation of constructing the Arab Maghreb.

The recommendations in particular stress the need to lay down a common working plan between the ministries of religious endowments and Islamic affairs of the Maghreb countries and the need for cooperation, integration, and coordination between them in all domains concerning their prerogatives, such as the training of competent religious cadres well trained in Islamic and Arabic studies, the unification of the methods and program of this training, the exchanges of visits between scholars in the union member countries, and the setting up of a Maghreb Koranic league.

The conference also called for fully seeking to preserve the deep-rooted authenticity that unites the Arab Maghreb Union member countries, and to entrench this authenticity. The conference underlined the need for cooperation and coordination between the union members for the benefit of the Maghreb community abroad, and the laying down of a strategy and unified targets for Islamic action between these countries in various religious spheres.

In its final communique, the conference condemned the question of the emigration of Soviet Jews to the land of Palestine, and any decision that considers Jerusalm as a capital for the Zionist entity. The conference also denounced the campaign against Iraq and Libya, and saluted the steadfastness of the Palestinian intifadah. [passage omitted]

King Hassan Receives Jerusalem Committee Members

LD0704085790 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Hassan II, may God grant him victory, last night at the Royal Palace in Rabat received Tariq Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister. [passage omitted]

Afterwards, his majesty, may God protect him, received the foreign ministers of the member countries of the higher tripartite Arab committee in charge of solving the Lebanese crisis including sirs: His Royal Highness Saud al-Faysal, the foreign minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Mr Ahmed Ghozali, the Algerian foreign minister; and Abdellatif Filali, the [Moroccan] minister of foreign affairs and cooperation. This meeting was also attended by the Arab League delegate to the committee, Mr Lakhdar Ibrahimi.

His Majesty King Hassan II, may God grant him victory, last night at the Royal Palace in Rabat received the president of the state of Palestine, Mr Yasir 'Arafat, who had talks with his majesty. [passage omitted]

King Husayn-Mubarak News Conference Reported

JN0804140790 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1220 GMT 8 Apr 90

["Details" of news conference held by Jordan's King Husayn and Egypt's President Muhammad Husni Mubarak with unidentified reporters in al-'Aqabah, Jordan on 7 April—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] When Iraq was exposed to a campaign recently, your majesty adopted a positive position by supporting Iraq. How do you assess future developments?

[Husayn] In answering this question, I can say that we stand by Iraq and we also stand by our brothers in the greater Arab homeland to defend the rights of the coming Arab generations in the entire homeland. In fact, the campaign was severe and harsh and in my view not justified at all. I personally felt its severity during my stay in Europe. Iraq wants a just and honorable peace for itself and for all its brothers in the greater homeland. It has defended the Arab order and offered sacrifices in defense of that order and the greater homeland through its leadership, people, and army. So, we had to support Iraq and we will continue to do so. I hope that this fabricated and unjustifiable campaign will be stopped.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, what was Jordan's share of this campaign, escalation, and the danger that was threatening the Arab nation?

[Husayn] The dangers threatening the Arab nation are due to its location, to what there is on and under the Arab land, and to a great extent to the Arab situation itself. This prompts us to work day and night to achieve integration and cooperation among ourselves in this world, whose image and features have changed. We the Arabs should assess the situation at every level and overcome our differences and doubts, as well as all the factors that have led to our current situation so that we can be an effective power in terms of logic and values and also be respected. With this we can address the world and tell it that we seek a just, honorable, and lasting peace. Our history is rich, and we are working to regain our capability to sacrifice and create a better future for humanity. The image should change; we have to discover our mistakes and be honest with ourselves in order to carry out our duties toward Almighty God, our conscience, and the Arab individual who is also anxious about his present and future. This notwithstanding, we have great hopes and unlimited confidence that we will certainly achieve our goals as long as these goals are in the interest of the Arabs and this nation.

His excellency the president has bestowed an honor on us by visiting us in his second country and providing us

with this opportunity in this blessed month to have this meeting with him. He was in Baghdad. He is a man who is concerned for his nation's interest. He is the big brother and the friend. We have discussed all developments. We have walked and, God willing, will always walk together and fulfill the duties as well as we can, united in mind and heart. Additionally, we are in the second year of the Arab Cooperation Council. This year, we will, God willing, translate much of what has been agreed on into reality. We are very hopeful that God will render us success in all of this.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Husayn] I have always hoped, and still hope, that good arrangements will be made for this summit. Anyway, this summit is necessary because when we move in this world, we can move backed by a unanimity and agreement, and a picture which we hope [words indistinct].

[Reporter] Does your majesty believe that the United States is now more serious in its peace than before?

[Husayn] I believe that the United States—in view of its position and responsibilities, particularly in view of the recent developments in the world—has to shoulder its responsibilities regarding the achievement of the just and honorable peace in this part of the world for its own benefit and for the benefit of everyone here, and in accordance with the line, which we see now and which is heading toward achieving peace everywhere in this world on a permanent basis.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, in view of the international developments, it seems that the recent period has witnessed events that disturbed the balances which were in favor of the Arab nation. Strangely, these days amid those disturbed balances, there is an attempt under way to show the Arab nation as a nation advocating war, as if there is a plot of some sort or another. What is Your Majesty's assessment of the situation?

[Husayn] Once again, the answer to this question lies in the position which this nation occupies, in the significance of this position, and in the materials that the Arab land possesses, which are needed by the world. We have to understand that this is our opportunity as an Arab nation. We belong to this single nation. If we endeavor to establish real cooperation among ourselves and if we respond to the people's ambitions in the greater Arab homeland, the picture will change and we will have influence. If, God forbid, things continue to disintegrate, we will inevitably lose and the result will be to encourage all the forces that seek to achieve their objectives and goals at our expense in the greater homeland. Therefore, I believe that the responsibility shouldered by those who assumed the highest positions in this Arab homeland is a very serious responsibility. We pray to God to guide us, and grant us success for the well-being of this nation.

[Reporter] Your Excellency President Mubarak, we would like to know the important topics that your excellency and his majesty discussed.

[Mubarak] During my meeting with his majesty the king, the principal topic discussed was the current state of Arab affairs. A second topic was the circumstances and the campaign of pressure against fraternal Iraq. We discussed this point in detail as well as all the circumstances around us. We also talked about peace, settling the Palestinian cause, the main cause of peace, and our position on this problem.

[Reporter] A few weeks ago, the U.S. Administration stated, or hoped, that Jordan would want to play an active role in the peace process once more. In your majesty's opinion, under what circumstances can Jordan resume its active role in the peace process?

[Husayn] Jordan has no designs or ambitions other than enabling the Palestinian Arab people to obtain their rights on their national soil. Jordan stands on the longest confrontation line. In view of its historical and pan-Arab responsibilities, not to mention its location, Jordan cannot but be a basic part of the peace process, God willing, the peace that it has always worked for. I have great hopes that everyone will understand that there can be no solution. Jordan performs its role. Moreover, the Palestinians must obtain their rights and the Palestinian cause must be settled. If the Palestinian cause is settled, then there will be a comprehensive and honorable solution. We stand by the side of our brothers and we work together to achieve peace, a just, honorable, and lasting peace.

[Mubarak] I would like to add to what my brother his majesty has said: Jordan has a basic role to play in the peace process. As it played a basic role in the war, Jordan will have a basic role to play in the peace process. As my brother the king has stated, Jordan has the longest borders with Israel, part of its territory is occupied, and the Palestinian cause is a trust in Jordan's hands. Therefore, I say that from this premise it is impossible to settle the cause and attain peace without Jordan. Jordan is a basic and principal factor in the peace efforts. Jordan was very active for a long period. By this, I do not mean that Jordan will speak on behalf of the PLO and the Palestinians. No. The Palestinians will speak for themselves so that no one can be blamed for any decision they may adopt. However, Jordan's role will remain a basic one in the peace process.

[Reporter] The initiation of the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue may open the door once again to an active Jordanian role in the peace process. Is that not the real key?

[Husayn] The Israeli-Palestinian dialogue wil open all the doors to a comprehensive peace in this region. Sir, the Palestinian cause is the cause of everyone in Jordan. However, it is the cause of a people, a land, and a cause of rights. We assumed our responsibilities in the past—Jordan, Egypt, and the other Arab brothers. Then came the Palestinians' wish to be able to have their say on their right to their national soil. This was also the Arab nation's wish. We responded to this wish. Now, the

circumstances pertaining to the Arab side and the Palestinian side are propitious, God willing. The march will be a serious one and thus we may reach our objectives. The other parties too should move toward peace.

AFP Reports 'Arafat Calls for 'Holy War'

NC0704093890 Paris AFP in English 0803 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] Rabat, April 7 (AFP)—PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat on Saturday urged Muslims to launch a "Jihad", or holy war against what he said was a plot to drive Palestinians from their homeland.

Mr. 'Arafat was speaking to an Arab committee on Jerusalem which convened here Friday to discuss the influx of Soviet and east European Jews into Israel and the occupied territories.

The Palestine Liberation Organization chairman urged Arabs throughout the world to act fast as the situation was "worsening".

"Can we, as Arabs and Muslims, stay with our hands bound in the face of (Jewish) settlements on Palestine," he said, adding that 300,000 Jews were expected this year alone to emigrate to Israel from the Soviet Union, eastern Europe and Ethiopia.

"Arabs and Muslims must be able to face up to the challenge because al-Quds (Jerusalem) is... the third holy site for Islam (after Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia)," he said.

He said the newcomers would be three million strong by the end of the century. "A new Israel, along with Palestine and the (occupied) West Bank and Gaza Strip would not be enough to house them."

Mr. 'Arafat also criticised the United States "which in the past would demand many guarantees before granting Palestinians travel visas while now it readily gives any Palestinian a five-year entry visa."

All this, he said, was part of a "large plot aimed at bleeding Palestine of its Palestinian inhabitants" and therefore "all Muslims must resort to the Jihad to defend their land and their sacred values."

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat on Hostages, Intifadah, Immigration

JN0604165890 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I in Arabic 5 Apr 90

[Text] Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat has said that he is trying to release American and Western hostages in Lebanon out of humanitarian feeling and humanitarian, religious, and national duty. He said that Palestinian-Syrian relations have been restored and that Palestinian and Syrian officials have had many meetings. We are eager to promote these relations to bolster higher pan-Arab interests and confront the Israeli enemy and the dangers threatening the Arab nation, he said.

In a statement to Abu Dhabi television last night, the Palestinian leader reiterated his call for convening an urgent Arab summit conference. He asked: Is not the issue of Soviet Jewish immigration enough for the Arabs to hold a summit? He also said that the intifadah would continue until the last Israeli soldier was withdrawn from the occupied Palestinian territories. He added that the Palestinian stone has led to the collapse of the Israeli Government and to the madness of former enemy Prime Minister Begin. He said there was no difference between the Likud and the Labor Party, stressing that they have identical views on final goals.

The Palestinian leader declared that the Palestinian state will be established with all its military, security, political, economic, and educational institutions and that the PLO's institutions are currently carrying out government duties.

He continued that he knows everything that is taking place in Israel and the details of Israel's crisis in forming a new government. Israel, he said, is still promulgating the map of "Greater Israel." He asked: If all Palestine is occupied by Jews, where will the 3 million Jews coming from East Europe stay? 'Arafat reiterated that the PLO has never practiced, and will never practice, terrorism.

He expressed regret about the U.S. Government's continued refusal to raise the level of dialogue with the PLO, and said that there is a conflict in the U.S. Administration between those who want a peace settlement in the Middle East and those who help Israel.

Regarding Europe's nominal support for the Palestine question and peace efforts, 'Arafat said that we should not view Europe in this simplistic way, because Europe will be unified in 1992 and will be the third or even the first power in the world.

With respect to the retreat of the Soviet Union and East Europe from their traditional relations with the Arabs, 'Arafat said that the Soviet Union's previous policies have come to an end and that we are dealing with a new policy. He added that the United States supports Israel in every case, that we must find a way to reach an understanding with East Europe, and that the battle is a diplomatic, political, and economic one.

Islamic Jihad 'Leader' on Anti-Israel Operations

JN0804152590 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] Shaykh As'ad Bayyud al-Tamimi, who introduces himself as the leader of the Islamic Jihad Movement-Bayt al-Maqdis, announced in Amman today that he has given instructions to his followers in the occupied territories to use all types of weapons against Israeli targets. Shaykh al-Tamimi said that the Islamic Jihad Movement

is the one that carried out the most recent operations against Israel, such as the fire in the Carmel forest and the attack against the Israeli bus on the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv road last July. However, he declared that his organization does not carry out operations against Israel from within Jordanian territory.

'Arafat Message to Sierra Leone Seminar Noted

JN0604205990 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], the president of the State of Palestine, has addressed a message to participants in the Palestine seminar being held in Sierra Leone at the invitation of the UN Committee on the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

Brother Abu-'Ammar cited the immense sacrifices of the Palestinian people in facing Israeli repression and the systematic state terrorism practiced by the Israeli Government. This he said, has resulted in the martyrdom of 1,100 Palestinians and the injury of 58,000, of whom 6,000 have been maimed for life. Despite all this, Abu-'Ammar said, our people continue to voice their peaceful demands and their adherence to their peaceful initiative that aims at a just and permanent peace in our blessed Palestinian land. [passage omitted]

Khalaf on Israeli 'Crisis,' Eastern Front

JN0604121690 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 4 Apr 90 p 23

[By Fathi al-Barqawi in Tunis]

[Text] A prominent Palestinian leader has stressed that a Middle East settlement, whether through a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue or an international conference, is still remote because Israel's extremism and current crisis may carry the situation over to a new, worse phase.

In an interview with AL-ANBA', Salah Khalaf, also known as Abu-Iyad, said Israel, in a bid to get out of its current situation, may assassinate some Palestinian leaders, step up efforts to bring more Jewish immigrants, or fabricate a battle with neighboring countries—not necessarily a full-scale war but perhaps something close to it.

Abu-Iyad explained that Israel might resort to one of these options as someting necessary to cover up for the failure Israeli society has been experiencing since the government crisis broke out, and to infuse local public opinion with a new spirit. The aim of a battle with an Arab country, he added, would be the creation of a security belt similar to the one in southern Lebanon—something that appeals to the imagination of extremist leaders such as Sharon.

Abu-Iyad said that the Israeli schemes to create an alternative homeland in Jordan are merely attempts to evade peace, for which the PLO has presented an initiative acceptable to the whole world.

Khalaf announced the PLO's support for Jordan against the so-called alternative homeland, and stressed that the Palestinian side is ready to enter into a real battle with Israel to foil this scheme. He said there exist no Palestinian sensitivities with King Husayn, whom he described as a strong barrier to this Israeli conspiracy.

Khalaf pointed out that the immigration of the Soviet Jews threatens both Palestinians and Jordanians alike. This necessitates future relations between the two sides based on coordination, understanding, and rapid initial touches on the features of Palestinian-Jordanian unity, he added.

Asked whether he means by Jordanian-Palestinian coordination supported by Iraq and Syria the creation of an eastern front, the Fatah Central Committee member said the current state of affairs in the Middle East, now reaching a dead end, makes it imperative for these sides to revive the eastern front, not as an Arab axis, but as an Arab force capable of countering potential danger. This requires better Palestinian-Syrian and Iraqi-Syrian relations and efforts to drive Iran into ending the existing tension with Iraq through a joint agreement between the two neighboring countries.

Speaking about Palestinian-Syrian relations, especially after the various high-level meetings between officials from the two sides, Abu-Iyad explained that considerable progress has been made. However, he added, these relations need stronger impetus, and this could be achieved on an initiative by the PLO, not the other side. This, he added, would enable the PLO to get Iraq to join the eastern front.

Asked whether the Palestinians have conditions for normalizing relations with Syria, Abu-Iyad said that an Arab party placing conditions on another Arab party is a loss to the common Arab effort. However, he pointed out that the Palestinians have some demands that can be solved at the negotiating table.

Abu-Iyad denied that the Palestinians alone were responsible for the current crisis in Israel and said they were only one of the reasons. The other reasons, he said, were the existence of an intense internal struggle for power, especially since 1982; the disappearance of historical leaders; the difficulty of continuing to deceive world public opinion with Israeli maneuvers; and the absence of a political decision in Israel.

About 10 days ago, Salah Khalaf disclosed Palestinian contacts with Israeli Likud Party members. Replying to a question in this regard, he said the Israelis insist on concealing their contacts with the PLO, which continues to respect the secrecy of these contacts. He indicated that what the Israelis say to the Palestinians is largely different from what they say publicly. They, however, are always pressing for more concessions in order to convince Israeli public opinion. This is so even though these figures announce in secret meetings their recognition of the PLO's basic role and that the Palestinian people's

right to self-determination is inevitable, provided that the method to attain this at the right time is left to them.

Regarding the unofficial Palestinian-U.S. contacts, Abu-Iyad said that Richard Murphy and Alfred Atherton, who have recently met with Yasir 'Arafat, voiced views undeclared by them when they were in power. He added that the aim of these contacts by Washington was to make sure of the real Palestinian attitude, of which the U.S. Administration and a large sector of the U.S. public are now fully aware.

Abu-Iyad disclosed some of the questions the U.S. delegation posed to the Palestinian leaders. Some of them deal with the intifadah and the extent of Palestinian relations with other governments, and whether these relations are daily ones that involve details or are confined to generalities and broad lines.

He said the U.S. delegation asked whether the PLO had a solution other than setting up an independent Palestinian state. He stressed that the Palestinian answers were clear, firm, and based on the constants approved by the Palestine National Council.

Regarding Jerusalem, Abu-Iyad said: The Palestinian reply was firmer. It said there could be no Palestinian state without Jerusalem as its capital. Otherwise, the Palestinians would be better off establishing their own state in Australia, Canada, or elsewhere.

He stressed that the historical value of Palestine lies in Jerusalem. As for details on the status of the city and whether it should be one municipality or not, this is not important. What is more important, he said, is that Jerusalem should be the capital of the Palestinian state.

Salah Khalaf expressed no surprise at the U.S. Senate resolution that considered occupied Jerusalem the unified and eternal capital of Israel. In this regard, he referred to reports of bribes the U.S. senators receive

from Zionist institutions in the form of direct or indirect material aid during their election campaigns.

Abu-Iyad blamed the Arab countries for the Congress resolution and said: Some Arab countries were satisfied with issuing "timid" denunciations despite the gravity of the U.S. Senate resolution. It is true that the U.S. Senate does not represent a legal force, but it expresses public opinion in the United States.

Regarding the West's campaign against Iraq, Abu-Iyad said: Iraq, which is in a state of war with Iran, is entitled to maintain its Armed Forces and develop its military hardware.

Abu-Iyad revealed that Israel is preparing an attack on Iraq, perhaps by the Israeli Air Force or by sabotaging Iraqi installations or by instigating Iran to do it and give it aid.

Algeria

Pro-Islamic Salvation Front Demonstrations Held

LD0604105590 Paris International Service in French 0630 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] Violence in Algeria: There were demonstrations in a town near the border with Tunisia, demonstrations and arrests, following rumors concerning candidacy [word indistinct] by the FLN [National Liberation Front], the party in power, for the forthcoming communal and provincial elections of 12 June. The demonstration took place in Cherea near Tebessa. The demonstrators attacked public buildings and shouted slogans in favor of the Islamic Salvation Front. We do not know the extent of the damage or the number of persons arrested.

Furthermore, in Algiers, a rally took place to protest this time against the rise in prices since the beginning of Ramadan, while in the east of the country, in the small town of Jijel the inhabitants decided to boycott shopkeepers for two days.

Prosecutor Statement on 'Riots'

LD0704221290 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Apr 90

["Text" of statement issued by the general prosecutor in Tebessa concerning the events in Cherea—read by announcer]

[Text] On the evening of 4 April, after the fast-moving groups of people gathered in the streets of Cherea to express what they claimed was their unhappiness and anger over those chosen as candidates for the municipal and the provincial elections at Cherea borough. It was not long before the gathering turned into riots, aggression, and acts of vandalism against public and private property. The events worsened to the extent that there were attempts to break into the houses of a number of officials and stones were thrown at them. Those groups then marched through the streets of the city, and it was not long before such acts turned into violence—acts of vandalism against public and private cars, and destruction of public lights and several buildings and public campanies, including the state-owned supermarket, a number of secondary schools, the police station, the court, and the city hall. Several persons managed to sneak into the latter, destroying some furniture and documents and setting registers on fire.

The security forces intervened to salvage the situation. Its intervention was both exemplary and effective. They were able to control the situation by dispersing the demonstrators and making life normal once more in the city after a number of rioters were arrested.

On the following day the events were repeated at the same time. Groups of people marched through the streets of the city. Acts of violence and terrorism were widespread following aggression against persons and properties: cafes, shops, vehicles, buildings, and public institutions. The riots went on for an hour, ending when the security forces took control of the situation and brought calm back to the city.

During those riots, the security forces arrested a group of persons involved in the events and 33 were brought before the General Prosecutor's Office in Cherea, where a judicial investigation was opened. They are accused of arson, riotous assembly, and destroying people's property, and 31 were remanded in custody. Further investigation is under way.

Such chaotic acts of sabotage, the statement continued, cannot be explained save as anti-democracy acts. Democracy cannot live save in an atmosphere of calmness and social peace. Animosity, criminality, and sabotage against the material structure of social life, as well as lawlessness are, furthermore, a tendency toward deliquency and hostility which must be resisted and fought against. Here, justice will remain the best guard for rights and freedoms.

Official Committee To Investigate Corruption

LD0604145290 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] Following the statements made by former Prime Minister Abdelhamid Brahimi concerning bribes and commissions estimated at $26 billion at the expense of the national economy, the government in agreement with the president of the republic insists on the following:

The government supports unreservedly the initiative of setting up an investigation committee at the National People's Assembly, backs it, and places at its disposal all the information liable to secure the success of the investigation which is underway. The government is determined to submit to the judiciary all the substantive information pertaining to embezzlement, blackmail, or bribery at the expense of the national economy, and to use all the legal means to guarantee the seeing of the results as soon as possible. The government finally reminds that the reforms underway are aimed, in the foreign trade sphere, at drawing up clear mechanisms which allow the putting of an end in all fields to real or alleged practices regarding the use of personnel and public property—which have discredited management over the 28 years of independence—by protecting administrators in the future against all irresponsible allegations and rumors which might be created by demagogic speeches.

Mouloud Hamrouche on Campaign To Combat Bribes

LD0904064790 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche today made a statement to ALGERIA PRESS SERVICE in which he dealt with the questions of the 26 billion [currency not specified] in bribes at the expense of the national

economy, the middlemen, the exorbitant rise in prices, and the means which should be used to control the situation. In this regard he reaffirmed that the government encourages the initiative of investigation by a parliamentary commission to expose the entire probable truth with full legitimacy without resorting to unjustified accusations and irresponsible statements. One of the tasks of the government departments is proving that the bribes occurred, while the judiciary is charged with the task of suppressing and punishing the perpetrators.

Mr. Hamrouche said the government has set for itself—in letter and spirit—the task of relentlessly combating all tangible actions that aim at transferring the state's assets and bribes of any sort to guarantee the seriousnesses and credibility of the public departments. Regarding the middlemen, Mr. Mouloud Hamrouche pointed out that the government, since its formation and on several occasions, has been urging the producers to organize themselves and to undertake supply and distribution to monitor their markets and avoid competition. Conditions for realizing this have been laid down but the results, as he noted, were still weak and could not at this stage confront the middlemen and speculators. This matter has made the government seriously consider—despite the damages which may be inflicted on the national economy—protecting the consumer even if this leads to importing strategic products to face the shortages of the national production. To confront the current situation of prices we should work to fix the prices and guarantee ordinary supplies to the market.

National Front for Renewal Party Platform

LD0804050190 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1225 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Summary] In its party platform , the National Front for Renewal strives to reform the educational system, to write an unbiased history of the revolution, to implement shari'a, to preserve the family structures, to find solutions to the nation's economic and social problems, to recover people's capital, to consolidate democracy, to promote the Arabic language, and to make people accountable for their actions.

Announcement of New Political Party Reported

LD0604020790 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1730 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] It has been announced, or rather, EL MASSA has announced a new political party. It has been founded in Draa el Mizan. It is the Algerian Party for the Maghreb Rebirth. This movement aims to establish a national federal Maghrebi state on the basis of Islamic principles.

Egypt

Mubarak Comments on 'Campaign' Against Iraq

NC0604140890 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] President Husni Mubarak performed Friday prayers today at the 3d Field Army command mosque in the military city of 'Ajrud in Suez. Attending the prayers with President Mubarak were General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, minister of defense and war production; Lieutenanat General Safiy-al-Din Abu-Shinaf, chief of staff of the Armed Forces; a number of ministers; the 3d Field Army commander, the Suez governor, and the commanders of the main branches of the armed forces. The Friday sermon dealt with struggle in the cause of God and the anniversary of the 10 Ramadan war.

President Mubarak arrived at the 3d Field Army headquarters this morning where the defense minister and the 3d Army commander met him.

After the prayers, President Mubarak made a statement to reporters. Asked his views on the campaign against Iraq, he said that the issue of Iraq is escalating for no reason. There has been a campaign against Iraq in the wake of the execution of the British journalist, who was charged with espionage. Iraq feels that this campaign is a form of pressure and threats. This forced president Saddam Husayn to make a statement in Baghdad. His statement is defensive and the Iraqi president has absolutely no plans for war. He personally confirmed this to me more than once. President Mubarak stressed that Egypt does not want this issue to be blown out of proportion. He said he is confident that the Iraqi president does not want war under any circumstances, neither with Israel nor even with Iran.

Asked about the content of his telephone conversation with King Husayn of Jordan, whether it touched on the campaign against Iraq, and what they agreed upon, President Mubarak said: We discussed the general situation as a whole and the continued escalation of the situation in the Middle East. He said that certain newspapers claimed that Egypt is manufacturing a nuclear bomb. All this is a kind of campaign aimed at escalating the situation and exerting pressure on the Arab countries in the region, and using intrigue and trying to incite the countries of the region.

Following the prayers, President Mubarak met with the commanders of the main branches of the Armed Forces and the 3d Field Army senior commanders. Gen. Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib also attended the meeting. Mubarak met with the officers and soldiers of the 3d Field Army and engaged in an open dialogue on internal and external issues.

Expresses Regret Over 'Campaign'

NC0604161590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Suez, 6 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has expressed regret over the current campaigns against Iraq, saying that they are escalating for no reason. [passage omitted]

On Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat's welcome of former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and his description of him as a man of peace and as the maker of peace between the largest Arab country and Israel, President Mubarak said that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat opposed the Camp David accords.

Mubarak asserted that we are on the path toward a peaceful solution and had it not been for the situation in Israel regarding the formation of a new government, the peace process would not have stopped. He said: "I believe that the United States is seriouly supporting this issue."

President Mubarak noted that though the United States took part in the campaign against Iraq, President George Bush's statement was very moderate and balanced.

Regarding Shim'on Peres' statement that he had obtained the necessary votes to form an Israeli government and the effect of such a speedy formation of a government on the peace process, Mubarak said: We do not interfere in the formation of an Israeli government. This is the Israeli people's desire and we cannot interfere. He said: We will deal with any government chosen by the Israeli people. We cannot choose a certain government, because we refuse interference by any foreign country in choosing an Egyptian government or president. This is up to the people and we will not interfere. We are awaiting the formation of an Israeli government so that we can get on with the peace process.

In conclusion, Mubarak stressed that we are demanding a just right and we have no exceptional demands. We welcome any Israeli government and will deal with it. We dealt with Shamir and before that with Peres. We dealt with Menahem Begin and signed the peace treaty and the Camp David accord with him. Egypt restored its land through this agreement. There was another framework for resolving the remaining part of the isue, but the parties concerned refused it.

Mubarak Telephones Iraqi President Saddam

NC0604153090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, 6 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak telephoned Iraqi president Saddam Husayn this morning. The two leaders exchanged views on important developments in the region and certain issues that concern the Arab Cooperation Council.

Visits Baghdad, Returns

NC0804045690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2343 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, 7 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak returned to Cairo at 0130 after holding important talks with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn in Baghdad and His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan in the Jordanian city of al-'Aqabah.

While in al-'Aqabah, President Mubark held a round of talks with His Majesty King Husayn which was also attended by members of the Egyptian delegation accompanying the president. The delegation consisted of Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Safwat al-Sharif, information minister; Zakariya 'Azmi, chief of the presidential cabinet; and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the president's office for political affairs.

Following the talks, His Majesty King Husayn hosted a meal for President Mubarak and his delegation. The two leaders then held a private meeting after which the Jordanian king and President Mubarak spoke to Egyptian journalists. King Husayn then accompanied President Mubarak to al-'Aqabah airport, where he was seen off after a two-and-one-half-hour visit to Jordan.

President Mubarak was received upon arrival at Cairo airport by Cairo Governor Mahmud Sharif and Nabil Najm, Iraq's ambassador in Cairo.

Comments During 'Lightning Visit'

NC0804102390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0840 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, 8 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has stated that Egypt seeks to bring about a declaration proclaiming the Middle East a region free of weapons of mass destruction, in which all countries accept a system of international inspection on condition that it is compulsory for all states without exception and provides international guarantees and controls.

In statements to the chief editors of Egyptian newspapers who accompanied him on his lightning visit to Baghdad and al-'Aqabah yesterday, President Mubarak also said that Egypt is eager to play its part in achieving peace and stability in the Middle East. He has sought to achieve this objective through his trips, despite the hardships they entail.

President Mubarak explained that Egypt's strong relations with all Arab leaders and countries help it perform this role, adding that his quick visits to Iraq and Jordan come within the context of defusing the escalating crisis which has resulted from the recent threats to Iraq.

Speaking about the Arab summit, President Mubarak said that there should be coordination among all Arab states to achieve and safeguard Arab security. He added

that the next phase will witness contacts at the highest levels to realize this coordination and prepare for an Arab summit.

Referring to changes in the international situation, President Mubarak stressed the need to discuss the impact of these changes on the Arab nation and to prepare for and face up to the new situation.

President Mubarak stated that there is now a "golden opportunity" for peace and said that this opportunity must be seized. He stressed that the administration of U.S. President George Bush, including U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, is working firmly toward promoting the peace process despite the campaigns to which it was subjected in an election year in the United States. President Mubarak also stressed that the U.S. Administration maintains its stated policy on the issue of Jerusalem, which it does not recognize as the capital of Israel despite the recommendation by the U.S. Senate.

Discussing the situation in Lebanon, President Mubarak said that Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi will visit Egypt shortly. He added that Egypt has never stopped working for a solution to the Lebanese problem.

President Mubarak said that he intends to visit Damascus to meet with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad after the blessed 'Id al-Adha [end of the month of Ramadan].

President Mubarak declared that the Soviet leadership has renewed its invitation for him to visit the Soviet Union and that May has been set as the month for the visit.

On the domestic situation, President Mubarak said that the term the sale of the public sector is a "wrong slogan." He explained that the state will not sell the giant ventures in the public sector which contribute to realizing social balance among the people, but at the same time it may relinquish small projects which have no value and which do not contribute to this balance.

President Mubarak said that the government will study and prepare reports on the plight of local ventures and joint companies which have been losing money and which will be sold to the private sector. The government will establish the rules and controls for such sales. At the same time, the government will develop the management of the main public sector companies. The government will retain ownership of these companies because they achieve social balance among the citizens. The government will retain ownership of such ventures as the iron and steel plant, the textile and spinning company in al-Mahallah, the aluminum plant, and consumer goods firms.

President Mubarak called for a redoubling of efforts to increase production so that the state can meet the needs of the citizens. He said that despite the budget's huge burdens, the government will give an extra allowance to workers on 1 May. He called on citizens to change their habits of overconsumption, which lead to price increases. He said that the citizens can play a leading role in reducing prices. For instance, if citizens refrained from buying overpriced goods, merchants would be compelled to reduce prices lest the goods remain as unsold stock. He stressed that the government cannot shoulder the burden of controlling prices alone. Popular control is more important and basic.

President Mubarak also spoke about the finance investment companies. He stressed that issue is in the hands of the public prosecutor's office, which will announce its findings after completing its investigations. He explained that citizens are partly to blame, pointing out that some citizens dealt with these companies after the government issued its decision exposing the plight of these firms.

Interior Minister Musa on 'Sectarian Sedition'

JN0704213090 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 5 Apr 90 pp 2, 11

[Interview with Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa by AL-JUMHURIYAH editing staff in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-JUMHURIYAH] You have dealt with the sectarian sedition at various times and from numerous positions since you graduated as an officer from the police academy in 1954, including the governor of Asyut from 15 October 1987 until you were appointed interior minister on 12 January. After all these experiences, how do you view this sectarian sedition?

[Musa] We would be going against reality and the truth if we called it sedition, since my understanding of sedition is when you have two parties to a conflict or two components in one entity. In Egypt, we are the same people, in flesh and blood, Copt and Muslim, we are not two parties. We are not two sects, nor two elements. We are one formation, one entity, and a closely knit structure. Proceeding from this, I object to the expression sectarian sedition because it contradicts reality.

The way I see the phenomenon you are talking about is as a case of an ignorant or prejudiced person who wishes to employ religious doctrines wrongly and harmfully. Thank God, there is no sedition; but misjudgment or biased judgment for a cheap purpose. Thank God, the person harboring these ideas did not succeed in implementing his thoughts or applying what he planned.

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] If it is as you say, why does sedition return over and over again and start anew after we thought it was eradicated?

[Musa] There is no problem if a person takes religion as a way of life and adheres to the call in its pure form. If, as a Muslim or Christian, I advocate my doctrine with honesty and my intention is pure, then there is no scope for quarrels, differences, or divisions. If, however, the same people take a religious doctrine, wrap it up, and use it for specific purposes, therein lies the danger.

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] What are their goals?

[Musa] Disturbing the peace and creating a climate for toppling the system through revolution.

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] Does not your description, which denies or simplifies sectarian sedition, contradict the reality we witnessed in al-Fayum, Abu-Qurqas, and elsewhere in recent weeks?

[Musa] Nothing happened in al-Fayum that could be described as sectarian sedition. As for Abu-Qurqas, we do not deny that some incidents did take place. However, the question is: Who are the people who committed these incidents? They are youths, the oldest of whom is 17 years. Of course, they are backed by certain people with a certain way of thinking. They are the ones who call themselves the Islamic groups, but they have nothing to do with Islam. I, however, call them groups of extremism or extremists.

In the al-Minya events in general, the extremists felt that the rug was being pulled from under their feet through the enlightened call and through the proper efforts to correct ideas concerning the Islamic call. They started this little rumor. As I said in my statement before the People's Assembly, our investigations and detective work have proven that the photographer who was alleged to have taken pictures of Muslim girls, is a Muslim and not a Christian. How can I call it sedition? Sedition cannot actually exist unless it attracts the broad masses. This did not happen. The evidence is that the crisis was contained quickly—within three days, no more.

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] How do you explain the echoes of these events in other areas, such as Asyut and Cairo?

[Musa] The motive behind the Asyut events was different. The whole issue there was that they were looking for a mosque. There was no dispute or argument between Muslims and Christians involved in the matter at all. As for Cairo, all that happened there was that two youths threw fireworks at the Church of the Virgin in 'Ayn Shams.

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] Are you, therefore, downplaying the incident?

[Musa] I did not say that what happened was right, but I would rather give things their proper names. All this falls under what is called provocation rather than sectarian sedition. We in Egypt, both Muslims and Copts, have coexisted since the Islamic conquest in the year 32 Hegira. There were no barriers or problems. The extremists' follies cannot undermine the Egyptian people's historical organic unity.

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] Do you think someone is behind the extremists?

[Musa] Their ideology is behind them.

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] Is anyone abroad feeding this extremist ideology?

[Musa] I would honestly like to say a word of truth—and you know that I am not a sycophant. By the success of his reunion efforts, President Mubarak has helped settle at least 85 percent of our security problems. There is no longer anything that worries us from across the border. Are we afraid of Libya, with which we share the same policy and direction? Are we afraid of Syria, with which we share the same policy and direction? Are we afraid of Sudan, with which we share the same policy and direction? From across which border would our security be disturbed? Before, hostile leaflets used to reach us from abroad, printed on glossy paper and in bright colors. Now the leaflets that appear are handwritten and photocopied on ordinary machines. The latest leaflet we seized aimed at provoking Muslims against Christians. It was written in this primitive method. Regrettably, we discovered that a Christian teacher in disagreement with his wife, imagining that one of his colleagues was instigating her to disobey him, hired a member of the extremist groups to write this leaflet. The two were apprehended and both confessed.

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] What tempted the "Muslim" extremist to carry out the teacher's will?

[Musa] Money. [passage omitted]

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] Some people have said that, after your assumption of power at the ministry you went too far in releasing extremist detainees and that the recent incidents were a direct result of your decision to release them although you were aware of their extremism. Is this true?

[Musa] Not true. When I assumed my job as minister, I imagined that the number of detainees was very large. I discovered that there were 720 political detainees and the overwhelming majority of them were extremists. The number of criminal detainees was 1,020. Upon studying the reasons for their detention, I found that they were trivial, such as a quarrel with a sentry or officer. Why should such a person be arrested? Why increase their numbers? I cut the number of political detainees down to 507, but this figure jumped to 700 after the al-Minya incidents. Whoever thinks that the release of detainees was responsible for the al-Minya incidents is mistaken, because we are ready to take tough measures whenever required.

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] We understand that religious extremism is the main reason for political detention. But what are the main reasons for criminal detention?

[Musa] Drug trafficking, trading in the people's food, and dealing with money. Those I do not let go.

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] Why has there been this terrible hike in prices then?

[Musa] Only last month there were 8,500 cases of price violations. I tell you honestly and sincerely that we are doing our best. I personally work 18-20 hours a day. We are exhausting ourselves, which is not be a good thing as

it might affect one's ability to make decisions. We are not gladdened by the hard work we are undertaking, but we do not tire or despair as long as the country needs that from us. It is God's help that we seek. [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Majid on Emigration, Regional Ties

JN0704133890 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 4 Apr 90 pp 1, 24

[Report by Husayn al-Tantawi]

[Text] Riyadh—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has told AL-SIYASAH that the deluge of Jewish emigrants, whether from the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, or any other country should be confronted with effectiveness through diplomatic channels and political means. He pointed out that Jewish emigration harms the Palestinian individual's rights and the Soviet Jewish individual should not obtain his rights at the expense of the Palestinian.

He said that Egypt is actively moving in this respect. President Mubarak sent letters to U.S. President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev reiterating Egypt's position and its rejection of these actons and practices. He added that this undoubtedly constitutes a violation of the fourth Geneva convention, threatens the future of the occupied Arab territories, and has a negative impact on the comprehensive peace process, destabilizing the region.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said: We appeal to the countries that allow their nationals to emigrate to obtain the necessary guarantees that their nationals will not settle in the occupied Arab territories. Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid also called for pursuing consultations and the exchange of views within the Arab and Islamic framework and at other international forums to follow up on this issue.

Asked about the foundering of the peace efforts in light of Israeli intransigence, even following the downfall of the Shamir government, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said: We should not anticipate events. Peace efforts are now passing through an important stage and an inevitable one. There is agreement and coordination between us and the Palestinian brothers, and we hope that the new Israeli Government will reach a solution that will pave the way for the tripartite meeting to be followed by the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue to achieve stability and peace in the region. It is well known that the peace process is an arduous operation and requires determination and commitment from all the parties because peace is so deserving. We all are aware of the problems and obstacles facing any negotiations. Matters are not that easy, and the road is not strewn with roses. On the contrary, there are many obstacles, and we hope that Israel will emerge from its current state of affairs more determined to attain peace. As I have said, the PLO has spared no effort to prove its good intentions and that it wants peace. It obtained international support. Evidence of this is the broad support it gets from the EC in general. Israel is aware of the burdens resulting from its rejection of peace, and if this occurs it has to bear the consequences.

On the situation in the Gulf, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that Egypt reiterates its support for the UN secretary general's efforts to push ahead the peace negotiations between the two Muslim countries—particularly after the recent Iraqi initiative which seeks peace and stability—settle the problems between Iraq and Iran peacefully, and transform the cease-fire between the two Muslim countries into a real peace based on sound foundations that will secure peace and stability for all the region and enable each one of the two countries to channel their resources toward development and reconstruction.

On Egyptian-Libyan relations, Dr.'Abd-al-Majid said: Relations have become very normal and good. The border is open and the two fraternal people are bound by amity. He said: We are happy with this positive and constructive development, and relations, contacts, and visits among the officials continue to take place. He added: These relations will be further developed in the coming days.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid described Egyptian-Syrian relations as good and constantly progressing. There is an Egyptian-Syrian understanding in various fields, particularly following President Mubarak's meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad in Tobruk which resulted in the decision to appoint the Syrian ambassador to Egypt, while the Egyptian ambassador to Syria is preparing to leave for Damascus. These are positive signs of Arab accord which we hope will spread to all other Arab parties.

Asked about the efforts necessary to achieve peace, reconciliation, and accord in Lebanon, 'Abd-al-Majid said:

Adherence to the al-Ta'if agreement is important in this cause. The Lebanese parties' support for the legitimate Lebanese government and for an end to the raging violence will restore that country's stability. We have always urged the Lebanese to seize control of their own affairs and benefit from the constructive good offices offered by the Higher Tripartite Arab Committee to spread Lebanese sovereignty over the entire Lebanese soil.

On President Mubarak's participation in Namibia's independence celebrations and his meeting with African struggler Nelson Mandela, the Egyptian foreign minister said:

We strongly welcome Namibia's independence and the release of African struggler Nelson Mandela. I consider this a success for the national African liberation movement and recognition of African liberation movements as legitimate movements in the southern part of the continent.

'Abd-al-Majid noted the importance of the need for dialogue between the African leaders on one hand and the apartheid government on the other. Through dialogue and negotiations we can find a solution to the last African issue in the southern part of the continent after the independence of Namibia—that is, to end apartheid in the southern part of the continent. In general, we are gladdened by this great event.

On establishing a security strategy for the Red Sea littoral states, 'Abd-al-Majid said:

We understand this request and consider it a legitimate request, because the Red Sea area is important to littoral states. This will be accomplished through coordination and understanding between the Arab countries and Ethiopia. As I said, freedom of navigation in this strategic waterway is vital for international peace and security. It will also spread stability in this vital area.

On reports that Ethiopia intends to build dams on the Nile, he said:

We have received assurances from the Ethiopian Government, which is a friendly government, that it is not carrying out any projects on the Nile sources and that Ethiopia, the riverhead country, will consult on any such projects with Egypt and Sudan, the countries through which the Nile flows. Israel has nothing to do with this matter. We are also confident about Ethiopia's understanding of this important and vital issue.

On the return of the Arab League headquarters to Cairo, the Egyptian foreign minister said:

This was decided in order to return the situation to normal. It is a declaratory decision—that is, it does not establish a new situation. Egypt's position is clear and frank in the Arab League Charter. After the Casablanca summit resolution in May last year on the resumption of Egypt's membership in the Arab League, it was natural to discuss and endorse the issue because it was a direct result of the Casablanca Arab summit resolution. Intensive contacts were held with Tunisia, which showed understanding from the beginning until the Arab foreign ministers agreed on the issue in Tunis. Certainly, the decision will strengthen Arab cooperation after the Arab fold has become one force. This will increase the effectiveness and success of common Arab action.

The Egyptian foreign minister added that the decision to return to Cairo will be announced next September. And until this announcement is made, the five-member committee formed by the Foreign Ministers Council—consisting of Iraq, Oman, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt—and the Arab League secretary general will discuss the operational aspects of this decision. I believe matters are proceeding in accordance with the desire to reach an understanding on a solution that will satisfy all parties.

On the economic, social, investment, and technical cooperation agreement recently signed between Egypt and Saudi Arabia, 'Abd-al- Majid said:

The major consequence of the agreement will be to define objectives, to follow up the implementation of the steps agreed on by the two countries, and to continue meetings between the joint committees and the preparatory committees. This will give momentum in these areas. In addition to the agreement, the Saudi fund contributes an active program to development activities in Egypt.

We value highly the directives of the custodian of the two holy mosques to the Saudi fund to participate in financing three important development projects in Egypt, in other areas of cooperation, as well as in increasing trade between the two countries, developing maritime communications, telecommunications, and media and cultural relations.

He added that the agreement will develop joint cooperation to achieve the aspirations of our leaders and the interests of our people in this stage.

'Abd-al-Majid Meets Israeli Deputy Darawshah

NC0804174490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1652 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, 8 Apr (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met today with 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah, member of the Israeli Knesset and leader of the Arab Democratic Party [ADP].

Following the meeting, Darawshah stated that they had discussed developments in the Middle East and the Palestinian issue. He said that the Palestinians in the occupied territories appreciate the efforts of President Husni Mubarak and the Egyptian Government and people in assisting the Palestinian people and constantly seeking to find a just solution to the Palestinian issue and to promote the peace process.

Darawshah said he hopes Shim'on Peres will succeed in forming a new Israeli government in order to give new impetus to the peace process.

He said that the U.S. Senate decision that regards Jerusalem as Israel's united capital is regrettable and pointed out that the Palestinians denounce this decision, which gives peace efforts a negative tone.

Darawshah added that the ADP is opposed to the immigration of Soviet Jews and their settlement in the occupied territories because that would be at the expense of the Palestinians in the occupied territories. He concluded his statement by noting that even oriental Jews have asked Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev to stop the emigration of Soviet Jews to the occupied Arab territories.

ADP Leader Comments on Government Situation

NC0804163990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 8 Apr (MENA)—'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah, member of the Israeli Knesset and leader of the Arab Democratic Party [ADP], has expressed his belief that Labor Party Leader Shim'on Peres will get a comfortable majority of 64 out of 120 votes in the Knesset during the expected session on Wednesday, adding that this will enable him to form the Israeli government.

In an interview with MENA, Darawshah noted that the parliamentary battle was decided in the past two days when 60 Knesset members, who withdrew their confidence from Yitzhaq Shamir's government, will support his rival Peres. In addition, Avraham Sharir withdrew from the Likud and joined the Labor Party. He expects three other Knesset members, the group led by Economy Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i, to join Labor, thus raising the number of Peres' supporters in the Knesset to 64 members. He said that not all the parties that support Peres will be part of the coalition government, adding that the ADP and other Arab parties will support the coalition government without participating in it so that Peres can form the new government.

Darawshah, who is currently on a visit to Egypt along with three other party officials, stressed that the ADP has in fact reached an agreement with the Israeli Labor Party that involves three conditions related to three issues in return for the party's support for the Labor Party in the Knesset. He said that the first condition is to give an impetus to the peace process in the Middle East. The Labor Party pledged to accept U.S. Secretary James Baker's points and to go to the Cairo meeting with a Palestinian delegation which will include deportees and representatives from East Jerusalem.

The second condition is to change Israel's policy toward the occupied territories (the West Bank and the Gaza Strip), such as the reopening of Palestinian universities which have been closed since the start of the intifadah, the release of administrative detainees, and improving the conditions of life for the Palestinians. He said that the Labor Party pledged to introduce improvements to the Israeli policy toward the Palestinians and to respond gradually to these demands at the start of the peace process through the Cairo dialogue.

The third condition is the demand for the implementation and application of equality between Arab and Jewish citizens inside Israel. The Labor Party pledged to implement a five-year plan to apply equality, and it will form a ministerial team under Peres to ensure the budgets [of Arab municipalities] and to implement the necessary steps for that.

Regarding the recent Israeli statements and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's replies to them, Darawshah said that these statements are an escalation in the situation, noting that the Israeli officials started these statements. He added that the Iraqi president's reaction was a defensive one. He then said: I do not believe that in these statements President Saddam Husayn meant actual steps to destroy Israel but that he warned world and Israeli public opinion that Iraq will make a decisive response to any Israeli aggression. Darawshah called on both the Israelis and Arabs (?to exercise self-restraint) and said that it is important for Israel to abandon the method of threats and the arrogant way it deals with the Arabs. He stressed that it is unreasonable that Israel should develop and increase its arsenal of various advanced weapons while denying this right to Arab countries. He added that this is an unjust and unreasonable demand.

He called for elimination of all destructive weapons in Israel and the Arab world. He said: We cannot see only Israel increasing its nuclear capability because this is unacceptable. He noted that there are more sane voices in Israel calling for dialogue instead of mutual threats. He added that the escalation might prompt the major powers to exercise more influence so as to start the Cairo meeting and the dialogue with the Palestinians to reach a solution for the Palestinian problem and a just solution for the Middle East issue. [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Majid Meets Pakistani Foreign Minister

NC0904121790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1158 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, 9 Apr (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today held talks with Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, who is currently visiting Cairo, and his accompanying delegation.

During the session, both sides reviewed international developments, particularly the Middle East crisis and its developments, the efforts being exerted to stimulate the peace process, the Kashmir issue, and bilateral ties.

The two sides also exchanged views on the topics that will be discussed at the Islamic Conference Organization foreign ministers meeting, due to be held in Cairo in June.

PLO's 'Abbas, Hurani Arrive in Cairo 8 Apr

NC0904004290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2247 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, 8 Apr (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee members Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu Mazin) and 'Abdallah Hurani arrived in Cairo this evening to visit for several days and to meet with Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Their visit falls within the context of the constant coordination and consultations between Cairo and the PLO in light of the recent developments in the Middle East and the changes now taking place in Israel.

They were received at the airport by Sa'id Kamal, ambassador of the state of Palestine in Cairo.

West German Official Cites Mubarak on Saddam

NC0804164790 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] Today President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Dr. Hans-Jochen Vogel, leader of West Germany's Social Democratic Party and leader of the opposition parliamentary group. The meeting was attended by Dr. Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister, agriculture minister, and secretary general of the National Democratic Party.

Following the meeting, Dr. Vogel said he had held constructive and good talks with President Mubarak. He added that he and the president discussed peace in the Middle East and German unification. The economic situation in Egypt and economic cooperation, particularly the talks with the IMF, were also discussed, he added.

The German guest then said: President Mubarak explained to us the reasons that have compelled Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to make his recent statements—namely, that the Iraqi president has found himself in a difficult position.

Dr. Vogel expressed pleasure with President Mubarak's efforts to calm the situation. He said that Egypt and its president have played a responsible and acceptable role in this.

He added that President Mubarak was sympathetic to German developments and unification.

Newspaper Views Aims of 'Anti-Iraq Hysteria'

JN0704205090 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 5 Apr 90 p 6

[Editorial: "The Anti-Iraq Hysteria"]

[Text] Charging Iraq with attempting to produce nuclear weapons has been another tempest in a teacup. Several Western parties, some of whom have quickly backed off, took part in this series of campaigns, which carries the suspicious odor of a military provocation against this major militant Arab country in order to exhaust its potential and determination after emerging triumphant and more powerful from its war with Iran.

Nothing can convince anyone in the Arab world that the successive accusations against Iraq, denunciations of even its legal rulings concerning its national security, and the slanders against this country's regime and politicians do not harbor evil intentions coated with bitter rancor, and that the aim of these practices is not to create a hysterical atmosphere against this valiant Arab country. This is being done in order to deal a blow to this country, which has proved to be militarily powerful. With these preparations, they hope that such a blow will not provoke strong condemnation, so as to avoid any undesirable repercussions similar to those that followed Israel's strike against the Iraqi nuclear reactor nine years ago.

Iraq's military superiority, based on its advanced weapons and equipment seems to arouse bitter resentment among those who hate to see any Arab progress. Arab military power has become a shield to defend the Arab rights, not to mention Arab peoples and homelands. Most important of these rights is the Arab right to prosperity, well-being, life, and development. Apparently, the Arabs' foes want to deny them this right and keep them weak, disunited, and easily attacked and despoiled. Those seeking this are many. They covet territory, resources, and markets, motivated, apart from their designs and plotting, by a hateful heritage of emotional aversion to the Arabs for no better reason than that the Arabs are different in race, religion, language, tradition, and culture.

One of the clearest signs of bias against the Arabs and of the alliance against any sign of advancement on their part is this great fabricated clamor against "Iraqi nuclear weapons," although some parties have admitted that such weapons do not exist in Iraq and that Iraq is committed to the nuclear weapons nonproliferation treaty and allows international inspection and supervision in this area. However, not a single voice has been raised against Israel, whose possession of nuclear weapons is common knowledge. Nonetheless, Israel rejects any international measures, not to mention refusing to sign the nonproliferation treaty.

What ugly discrimination! It condemns those who can find nobody in the area but Iraq to shower with accusations and incriminations for no better reason than because it is an Arab country pursuing its right to progress, strength, and earnest self-defense.

Arab Action Urged on Israeli Threats and Dangers

NC0804051290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2252 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, 7 Apr (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR has called on the Arab states to be alert, cautious, and fully prepared to confront any threats and dangers to which they may be subjected after tension has mounted in the Middle East as a result of the provocative stands taken and statements made by Israel's leaders. These stands and statements indicate that Israel is planning something as part of the dirty operations it imagines it can carry out with impunity.

In its Sunday editorial, the paper says that for the past few years Israel has made it a habit to deal swift and unexpected blows to an Arab state every now and then, as it did with the attack on the Iraqi nuclear reactor, the invasion of Lebanon, and the assassination of Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir]. Israel got away with each of these crimes. The paper adds that it is time the Arab world

changes its passivity before these Israeli acts of aggression and no longer confines itself to issuing condemnations and denunciations. The Arab nation must be prepared to respond positively and effectively to any further acts of aggression against any Arab terrritory, and each Arab state must contribute to this response with all material, economic, and military resources at its disposal, so that the Tel Aviv leaders realize they cannot continue to commit their crimes with impunity.

The paper concludes by saying: The Arab nation is not and has never been an advocate of war, but has always been the victim of Israeli aggression. The paper notes the need for the Arab nation to answer any act of aggression with the necessary force, which seems to be the only weapon that certain people respect.

Collective Stand Urged Against U.S., Israeli

JN0704222290 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic
4 Apr 90 p 1

[Text] Despite the fact that the majority of Arab systems owe allegiance to the United States, it, nevertheless, holds the Arabs to different standards from those it applies to the Israeli enemy.

Arab oil revenues are being amassed in U.S. banks, and those of its allies, and are contributing toward reviving their economies. Nevertheless, the United States never considers the interests and feelings of the Arabs. On the contrary, it grabs every opportunity to arrest any Arab development, whether economic, military, or political.

When Libya proceeded to develop its economic performance and established a factory for chemical medicines, the United States confronted it with a fierce media campaign to arouse world opinion against it, on the pretext that this factory could produce chemical weapons—that is, weapons capable of deterring aggression from Israel, which in actual fact, is producing nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons. The campaign escalated to threats, sabotage, and then arson.

Today, the United States, Britain, and Israel are waging a full-scale media campaign against Iraq, because of its efforts to develop its technological capabilities. Despite the fact that the Iraqi nuclear reactors work within the framework of peaceful development and submit to international supervision, the suspect campaign continues and thus arouses the suspicion that a surprise attack may be planned on the Iraqi nuclear installations, like the Israeli aggression in 1981 against the Iraqi nuclear reactor.

A U.S. intelligence report published by THE NEW YORK TIMES reveals the real reasons behind the campaign. It said that, by developing the Soviet Scud rocket, Iraq would be able to hit targets in Tel Aviv and retaliate for any Israeli raid against its nuclear and industrial facilities—something that runs counter to U.S. plans in the region and would upset its scheme to thwart any real progress by the Arabs, confine advancement to the Israelis, threaten pan-Arab security, and ensure Israel alone has the long arm to oppress whoever upsets American calculations.

In the era of international detente, we should not rely on a foreign power to confront American and Israeli aggressiveness. President Saddam Husayn has done a good job by threatening to burn half of Israel with chemical weapons if it attacks Iraq. It marks a significant qualitative shift in the Arab handling of U.S.-Israeli thuggery.

The question is whether this showdown should be exclusively Iraq's responsibility or that of any one Arab country. This thuggery underestimates and offends all Arabs. Taking a determined stand, therefore, should be a collective Arab responsibility.

Commander on Better Border Guard Performance

JN0704072990 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic
4 Apr 90 p 6

[By Yasir Rizq]

[Text] Border guard forces are now being updated with the most modern devices and equipment and higher performance levels. The development process is designed to prepare specially armed forces to guard the country's borders against the various threats. The process will enable these forces to deal with infiltrations and smuggling and to keep up with advanced countries' procedures to protect their borders. This was announced by Major General Salah Misbah, the commander of the border guard forces.

He also said that the plan includes supplying these forces with the most advanced radar systems for ground and coastal surveillance, which give early warning and can follow infiltrations by either land or sea both day and night. The forces will also be equipped with light planes, helicopters, and fast launches for reconnaissance, warning, and pursuit, as well as with equipped vehicles, fast motorcycles, and advanced illumination equipment for land and sea searches.

He added that the plan is also aimed at supplying the border guard with radar systems that would enable these forces to quickly discover and define the direction and distance of the infiltrations and consequently decide how many units are to be used to arrest or wipe out the infiltrators. He pointed out that reconnaissance operations with radar will be generalized and the units will be housed in specific locations built and prepared by the Armed Forces. He added that these locations are being equipped with all facilities such as electricity to be generated from solar energy.

Maj. Gen. Salah Misbah said the plan seeks to reduce the dependence on manpower but not to dispense with it. It also seeks to upgrade performance, given that highly trained personnel are the main pillar for safeguarding the country's borders. He declared that the border guard forces' command spares no efforts to provide the border

guard with the sophisticated means and equipment needed to enable him to carry out his duty of protecting the borders and imposing the state's sovereignty over its land and coastal borders which are more than 6,000 km long.

On the role of the border guard in protecting the country from drug smuggling, Maj Gen Salah Misbah said that the border guards impounded over 10 tonnes of drugs, worth more than 120 million pounds, including 3 tonnes over the past 70 days.

Plans for Steel Factories, USSR Assistance

NC0704073690 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 7 Apr 90

[From the press review]

[Text] AKHBAR AL-YAWM reports today that three new complexes for steel production will be built over the coming few years. One of these will be built on a site of 400,000 square meters in al-Sadat city and will be dedicated to the production of special steel [al-sulb al-makhsus] for the first time in Egypt. Special steel is used in the production of tanks, planes, and guns. The other two complexes will be built in Suez in cooperation with the Soviet Union. They will have a production capacity of 3 million tons [period not specified].

Morocco

Leaders Arrive for Jerusalem Committee Meetings

Syria's Al-Shar' Arrives

JN0504214090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Rabat—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived in Rabat this evening to participate in the meetings of the Jerusalem Committee under King Hassan II of Morocco. The committee comprises the foreign ministers of a number of Arab and Islamic countries.

Al-Shar' was welcomed at the airport by Moroccan Foreign Affairs Minister Dr. Abdellatif Filali, senior staff of the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Syrian charge d'affaires in Morocco.

'Arafat Arrives

LD0704033390 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in our country this evening to participate in the proceedings of the Jerusalem Committee's meeting, which our country is hosting. [passage omitted]

In the VIP lounge in Sale airport, Mr. Yasir 'Arafat made a statement on the occasion to the national press in which he covered the aim of the convening of Jerusalem Committee and the efforts made by His Majesty King Hassan II, may God grant him victory, in this direction. He also covered the results of his talks in Paris, Rome, and the Vatican. [passage indistinct]

'Arafat Delivers Speech

LD0704153390 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1325 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Yasir 'Arafat, the president of Palestine, delivered a speech. He started by thanking King Hasan II, in his name and in the name of the Palestinian people, for this good initiative: The convening of the Jerusalem Committee at this difficult and fateful time through which the Palestinian problem is going.

The Palestinian president reviewed the development of the Palestinian problem and the effect of the immigration of Jews from some of the states of Eastern Europe on the peace process in the Middle East. He gave evidence highlighting the danger which the Zionist plan poses for peace in the region. Here is an excerpt from Yasir 'Arafat's speech:

[Begin recording] First of all, I ask his majesty to accept from me and from the people of Palestine and from the children of Palestine much thanks for this good initiative: the convening of our committee, the Jerusalem Committee, during these difficult and fateful circumstances through which the Palestine problem is going. This is our custom when matters become serious and complicated. We always come to you, your majesty, to raise before you a worry or explain to you a dilemma, and find you, thank God, always with Palestine and the people of Palestine, with the just Palestinian cause, with the land from which Muhammad made his midnight journey to the seven heavens, with the birthplace of Christ, peace be upon him, with Jerusalem, a man with a sharp sword, a man of challenge, faith, and decision.

Once again I thank you for inviting our committee, the Jerusalem Committee, to meet especially when we are facing a new challenge more dangerous than all the challenges which we had faced in the past. We are facing a challenge—and when I say more dangerous, I mean it. In 1947, there was the partition of the land of Palestine and millions came to Palestine at that time. Now these millions who are coming, and I am talking about the millions of Soviet Jews and Jews from the former socialist countries, the states of East Europe and from other countries, including what the Ethiopian officials have stated about allowing the Falashas to emigrate onboard direct charter flights to Palestine. A small and quick calculation will show that this year for instance, 240,000 Soviet Jews are expected to arrive, about 30,000 Jews from other socialist countries, and about 20,000 Falashas. That is 300,000. Thus, by the end of the century there will be 3 milion new immigrants. That is a new Israel! The land of Palestine will not be enough for them: neither Gaza nor the West Bank will be enough for them. [end recording]

Before the end of the session, his majesty gave the floor to Hamid al-Ghabid, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization. [passage omitted]

Saddam Thanks King Hassan for Support

JN0704063490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0555 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] Rabat, 7 Apr (INA)—His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco received Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, here last night. Tariq 'Aziz conveyed President Saddam Husayn's greetings and appreciation to his brother His Majesty King Hassan II, as well as his thanks for Morocco's pan-Arab stances toward Iraq in its confrontation of challenges.

During the meeting, a review was made of the developing ties between Iraq and Morocco in light of the distinguished relations between President Saddam Husayn and his majesty the Moroccan monarch. Developments in the Arab region were also reviewed.

Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, and the Iraqi ambassador in Rabat attended the meeting.

Saddam, Egypt's Mubarak Conduct News Conference

JN0804192190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1650 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad 8 Apr (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has declared the policy of prohibitions imposed on the Arabs must end once and for all, since in terms of human values and natural rights to sovereignty and everything else, they are entitled to the same rights as others. Our human and national worth is no less than any other nation on earth.

At a news conference conducted by his excellency and President Mubarak at the airport, President Saddam told Egyptian journalists and INA reporters it was high time the Arabs led dignified lives and Arab rights, security, and sovereignty were respected, just as the Arabs appreciated others' rights and sovereignty. The Arabs, naturally, only will respect those who respect them, the president added.

Following are the proceedings of the news conference.

Reporter: Your Excellency President Saddam, evidently Iraq is now the target of a campaign. While Iraq sincerely seeks to make peace with Iran in the context of the ongoing anti-Iraq drive, a different picture is being presented. Where does Iraq stand on peace with Iran?

His excellency the president: If His Excellency President Mubarak will allow me, I will speak once in my capacity as an Arab and then as an Iraqi. The Arab nation, as well as Iraq, value the importance of peace for the entire human race, not just for our region.

In our religious lexicon, so to speak, the word peace has precedence over any other word. Indeed, the word ranks with the oneness of God. In the Holy Koran, peace is an appellation of God's. The whole Arab nation hence sets much store by peace. When the Arab nation takes up arms in self-defense in the guise of so-called war, it realizes this only is a passing phenomenon resorted to as a necessity.

The Arab nation, of which Iraq is a part, does not deal in double standards—one for peace and one for war. If we take Iraq for instance, we will find that since the war with Iran broke out, we consistently have advocated the option of peace, even at the initial stages of the war when the Iraqi forces were deep inside Iranian territory. We also went for peace even when the Iranian Army was on the offensive and occupied al-Faw and other parts of Iraqi territory.

When we cleared our national territory of the Iranian forces, we continued to sue for peace. When once more we pursued Iranian forces deep into Iranian territory, we were consistent in our quest for peace. Thus peace for us has been a constant. We nonetheless will not concede rights that rightly belong to us in our dispute with Iran.

Reporter: Your Excellency President Mubarak, Iraq is under constant threats from Israel, supported by the hostile British and U.S. colonialist circles infuriated by Iraq's victory and scientific and technological progress. In your excellency's assessment, how will the Arab nation face these threats? In particular, what is the position of Egypt, the biggest Arab country?

President Mubarak: Iraq undoubtedly has been facing a campaign. Even those who know nothing about the subject and observe all the statements recently made will feel there is a campaign against Iraq. I have talked about this topic with the United States and certain other European countries. I believe Iraq is not a country that wants war or advocates it. It indeed is a country that wants peace. I have said more than once that neither Iraq nor President Saddam Husayn are advocates of war. The president is not an advocate of war, but seeks peace, a just peace. This was the purpose of the messages I sent to all European states and to the other states concerned with this subject.

Reporter: Your Excellency President Mubarak, I want to ask about the Arab summit. At this particular interval, the Arab nation faces very major challenges threatening its sovereignty and national security. Does Your Excellency's visit fall within the framework of preparations for an Arab summit?

President Husni Mubarak: I came to see my brother President Saddam Husayn to study the situation in general. What I would like to say and stress, however, is that the unified Arab position will strengthen all individual Arab states. There must be general coordination, therefore, in the various fields to guarantee Arab national security. This is an important subject and needs study. The whole situation has to be reassessed at an Arab summit.

Reporter: You Excellency President Saddam Husayn, following this onslaught, what guarantees does your excellency believe are needed to contain the explosive situation, which may hit the entire region? What are the international and regional guarantees needed to protect the Arab nation from conflict?

The president: Before we ask for guarantees from the others, we ought to search for guarantees among ourselves. Any nation's guarantees are provided through its own resources and through solidarity among its component countries on a clear basis. One of the brothers asked a question a few minutes ago, and said something like: Does Iraq have two logics or two methods for peace? I say Arabs must ask themselves what guarantees they need to ensure their security as a single nation before they search for, or ask others, for guarantees. This does not mean we should be satisfied with our position as a nation and not endeavor with other nations to explain our position on our rights and our desire to protect our security and rights. I say we must not choose certain circumstances to display slogans of solidarity, and hide them during others.

For example, Iraq—as President Mubarak has said, and we all know—is now the target of an attack that to us has

clear objectives. If we speak only about solidarity with Iraq and forget solidarity with Iraq's brothers in other fields and issues related to the higher Arab interest and pan-Arab security, then the slogan of solidarity will not be genuine; rather, it only will be a temporary situation linked to Iraq's current needs.

However as brother President Mubarak said, I urge a search for guarantees within ourselves as a nation; and these are great. The Americans, Soviets, French, British, Chinese, and Japanese all have guarantees for themselves coming from within their own countries. The Arab nation, similarly, is not less able than these countries, with due respect to them all. Arab resources are even greater than some of these countries. These resources, indeed, are equal to those of the strongest country among the aforementioned.

We had better, therefore, use our resources. When we do this and act as a single nation, we will provide our pan-Arab security with extraordinary force. When I talk about a single nation, I must add, I do not necessarily mean a single state; I am talking about a single nation in terms of feelings, conduct, behavior, and thought.

When we do this the other nations will respect us and the attack against us, which draws a defensive reaction, will be at its lowest level, and our sacrifices or losses will be minimal.

Reporter: Your Excellency President Mubarak, concerning the current situation and its impact on the peace process, will the formation of an Israeli government under Peres push forward the peace process?

President Mubarak: You know we do not interfere in Israel's internal affairs under any circumstances. We deal with any government chosen by the Israeli people, because this matter concerns them and is part of their internal affairs. Earlier I said we in Egypt had dealt with [former] Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin, and then dealt with Shamir and Peres. Whether Peres or anyone else heads the government, our rights are clear, and the peace process must move ahead; otherwise, the results will be in the interest of neither party.

I hope, God willing—and I cannot be certain—that the peace process will begin after Peres forms the new government, so the Palestinians can attain their just rights, and peace can wash over the entire region.

Reporter: Your Excellency President Husayn, as you have rightly pointed out, Iraq's stand on peace is clear enough, and yet one cannot say there is no attempt to portray Iraq as a warmongering nation, when in fact, it is a peace-loving country. Do you think there must be some planning behind all this? Or could it be some behind-the-scene events present such a picture of Iraq?

His excellency the president: Of course the charges are legion, especially in the Western media. For such charges to gain credence, however, they need to be substantiated. What country has been attacked by Iraq for us to be called warmongers? Iraq has committed aggression against no one. As I have just pointed out, when we were the target of aggression we sued for peace, and we still do. Iraq calls for peoples' rights to be respected, but here there must be reciprocity.

It indeed is the Arabs who should point fingers at advocates of war. The recent drive against Iraq constitutes a form of attack. What has Iraq done? It executed a spy who was accorded due process. Iraq's laws provide for the execution of whoever is caught spying for a foreign power. The spy in question had a fair trial that was attended by the British consul, as they requested, and an attorney was assigned to plead the defendant's case. This has been one of the issues over which the campaign was launched against Iraq. The other issue has been that Iraq concluded a purely commercial deal on simple items worth $10,500, at $100 each. The functions of these items were contained in a regular contract, as I said in response to President Bush's 3 April statement. Doesn't it count as an aggression when Iraq is denied access to technology for peaceful purposes? Doesn't it count as an aggression when the intelligence services of two nations set out to entrap Iraq and lure it in order to say Iraq is after such and such a thing with the object of imposing on it conditions that it all along has rejected and will continue to reject? Why are they making a small issue look as if it were an undertaking to build an atom bomb? At the same time, these nations forget Israel has acquired the atom bomb. They also know Israel has acquired chemical weapons and bacteriological capabilities. Why then, does the spotlight not fall on Israel's acquisition of the atom bomb, instead of the media focusing on facilities used for known purposes? They know the purposes for which they are used. They have painted it as an undertaking to manufacture the atom bomb so Israel may say Iraq's installations will have to be hit. What did they expect us to do under the circumstances? Would they have wanted us to say, please come and strike any targets you please? Would they have wanted us to turn the left or right cheek? Isn't it purely a question of self-defense to seek to respond to those who attempt aggression against us—be it in Egypt, Iraq, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, or any other place? It is not as if only Iraq is the target. It seems the Arabs are to be denied any access to technology. You must know that some while back, there was a campaign, if not as fierce, against Saudi Arabia's aquistion of missiles. There were threats to take these down.

It is necessary for the world, the whole world, to understand it is time for the Arabs to live in dignity and for the Arabs' rights, security, and sovereignty over their land to be respected, just as the Arabs respect other countries' rights and appreciate their sovereignty.

I therefore reiterate that Iraq and all Arabs respect those states which respect them. It is natural for the Arabs to respect only those who respect them.

Reporter: Your Excellency the President, I hope we will talk about Arab potential. You said the Arab nation has

a huge potential with which it can be stronger than other international groups. Will you please explain this potential and how it can bear fruit and be harvested, as well as what is the right atmosphere and time for this potential to bear fruit?

His Excellency President Husayn: I will explain something to you. In other words, I will mention some points and examples in advance so no Arab may conclude Iraq wants to benefit from this matter. To start with, Iraq does not want to benefit from any Arab economic or financial capability. This is not what I want from talking about Arab potential. You know Iraq is undergoing special economic circumstances, but they are temporary and we have much, God willing.

From a comprehensive pan-Arab angle, we can ask: Would Iran have committed aggression, at the beginning of the friction between Iran and the Arabs in the wake of its slogan that it would export the revolution to the Arab homeland, if 10, four, or five Arab countries told Iran: Beware of attacking Iraq? Would Iran have committed its aggression on Iraq, forced it to defend its dignity, security, and land, and prolonged the war for eight years had it felt a serious warning or deterrence from five, six, or four Arab countries? Would the war have broken out and gone on had the Arabs told Iran in one voice during any time of the war: Stop the war or we will get involved in favor of Iraq? I can say the war would not have continued or even broken out had we calculated how much Iraq would pay out of its economy for this war to preserve what it has preserved.

If half of that amount of money had been used to strengthen and unite Iraq's brothers to confront a similar situation, would war have broken out? I can say it would not have. We view pan-Arab security, therefore, as divided. Are we allowed to view the national security of Egypt, Iraq, Algeria, or Kuwait in isolation from the nation? The answer is no. It has been proved the price of this fragmentation is very high, at least in view of the needs of the pan-Arab security. If we view our security as divided, we will be compelled to build up our strength to confront dangers posed by the unified enemies of the nation.

The nation's enemies regard any Arab country as part of the Arab situation and act accordingly. However they can single this country out if it views, or if the other Arab countries view, pan-Arab security as fragmented and divided, separating one Arab country from another.

So for Iraq to maintain its national security, it requires, for instance, 50 infantry and armored divisions in the ground forces alone. But if Iraq were part of overall pan-Arab security, it perhaps would need only 20 divisions, and the cost of the 30 other divisions could be used for economic development and for upgrading the standard of living of the Iraqi people. From this perspective, it does not hurt Iraq to earmark the cost of five of these 30 divisions for strengthening the national security of other fraternal Arab countries, and something similar can be done for local police and border guards.

In my modest opinion, therefore, as one Arab nation, we are required to secure common guards at our external gates. On the other hand, our internal gates, as countries with independent entities, should remain open so Arabs can interact in economic, trade, and social, cultural, political, intellectual, and artistic life. This is the perspective, or examples, of our attitude toward pan-Arab security. If on the other hand, we view pan-Arab security in terms of everyone seeking to maintain his own security, not bothering about the security of others, then the best expression will be President Mubarak's—that the separatist outlook will cost higher than that of the unified outlook.

Reporter: Your Excellency President Mubarak, what is the content of the letter you sent to American and European leaders? Have you received replies?

President Mubarak: I can tell you I sent messages on the current situation concerning Iraq; we explained our view, and we received positive replies from many countries.

The reporter: Your Excellency, what about contacts with Arab countries?

President Husni Mubarak: In addition to those contacts, I got in touch with brothers President Saddam and King Husayn, and brother President Saddam contacted me. Then the foreign ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council met in Amman and made decisions. Brothers in Iraq contacted the other Arab countries. Taha Yasin Ramadan was in Tunisia, and Tariq 'Aziz was in Morocco, and I believe other messages were sent to the other Arab countries.

Reporter: Your Excellency President Saddam, some time ago, you said the United States of America would, for a short while, consider itself the only superpower. You also have said you do not want a war with the U.S. and you do not want to have a hostile predisposition. Iraqi-U.S. relations are going through various phases. We see that doors for rapprochement are open at times, and then, suddenly, we see dark clouds hanging over these relations. What is Iraq's view of the nature of Iraqi-U.S. relations and the way they should be?

The president: You have described an aspect of Iraqi-U.S. relations, and I want to tell you something. The clouds that darken the relationship are due to the U.S. behavior, not Iraq's. As we repeatedly have stated, and as is the case with most Arabs, we want good relations with all the countries in the world. Iraq always has sought to build friendly relations, not just good relations, with all countries in the world. We see clouds darkening Iraqi-U.S. relations, however, whenever the Zionist lobby intervenes in American policy and whenever American policy errs in assessing the situation. This is not because Iraq wants to bring about clouds to darken Iraqi-U.S. relations.

Reporter: Your Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, how will the Arabs deal with the U.S. decision to consider Jerusalem the capital of Israel? Will this decision obstruct the peace process between the Arabs and Israel?

President Mubarak: The decision is a recommendation by the U.S. Senate, but the American President has stated his stand on Jerusalem will not change, and that this situation will be determined through negotiations.

Reporter: Your Excellency President Saddam Husayn, your excellency's declaration that Iraq possesses chemical weapons was an unprecedented declaration has caused great concern in international circles. In your excellency's view, how can this be contained?

The president: Why should we contain it? We have said it, and we meant every word we said. There was nothing wrong in what we said that we need to correct. We meant what we said. We meant to say we have such a weapon, but we also said Israel has the nuclear bomb. It no longer should be thought that if the Arabs have a certain weapon, they will use it while others will not. Nor should it be thought others have the right to possess any weapon, while the Arabs should not have any kind of weapons. The United States says it possesses chemical weapons, and the Soviet Union also says it possesses chemical weapons. The topic under discussion now on the international level is the possibility of reaching an agreement to destroy chemical weapons. As for us Iraqis, we possess this weapon, just as the United States possesses the nuclear bomb. It possesses the bomb to say it will use it on anyone who attacks it. We say any weapon that we possess, whether as Iraqis or as Arabs, we use only for self-defense and to defend rights. When anyone threatens us with aggression, or tries to raise slogans of aggression, against Iraq or any part of the Arab homeland, then it would be natural for the Arabs to say to him: If you try to attack us, we will retaliate against your aggression with the weapons we have.

Reporter: Your Excellency President Saddam Husayn, is Iraq's announcement of a joint Iraqi-Jordanian squadron and the joint armored division to protect Jordan against any aggression the cause of the escalation of the campaign against Iraq?

The president: First of all, the talk about a joint squadron and an armored division is not correct. This does not mean we are forbidden to form a squadron. I would like to say here: Why only one squadron? Why not 10 squadrons? What prevents the entire Air Force from going to Egyptian bases if the need arises? Is this prohibited to us? Is Israel prohibited from carrying out joint maneuvers with the United States? As long as this is the case, why should it be prohibited to Iraq and Jordan, two fraternal Arab countries with common borders, to carry out an exercise with one squadron as they claim?

It therefore must be made clear to the entire world the policy of prohibitions imposed on the Arabs must end once and for all, since in terms of human values and natural rights to their own policies and sovereignty and everything else, they are entitled to the same rights as every individual on earth. The Arab has the same human rights and other rights as the U.S., Soviet, or Swiss individual. I mean the human rights that are contained in the UN documents, not to mention the rights to national sovereignty.

If Abu-'Ala', therefore, sends one or two squadrons to Iraq, will this mean there should be a party to veto such a move and say: Why are there two Egyptian squadrons in Iraq, or why is there an Iraqi armored division in Egypt to carry out exercises on Egyptian territory with the purpose of joint coordination among the Arab armies to face an emergency in defense of the Arabs, their national security, and their dignity?

This veto should end. Such a veto should be applied to the entire world or to the region. Otherwise, everyone in the world, or in the region, should be allowed this right. This is so because our human and national worth is no less than any other nation on earth. Thank you.

Further Reaction To Peres Before 11 Apr Vote

Sharir Supports Alignment

TA0704182790 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] Knesset Member Avraham Sharir has officially announced he will support the Alignment in its efforts to form a government on 11 April. In a letter which reached our correspondent Hanan 'Azran, Sharir says: After I found myself pushed out of the Likud, I decided to support an Alignment-led government. It was Sharir himself who wrote the detailed announcement that reached our correspondent.

Discussion on Sharir, Coalition

TA0704192890 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Discussion between David Witzthum, Saturday foreign newsreel editor, and correspondent Hanan 'Azran in the studio—live]

[Excerpts] [Witzthum] Hanan 'Azran, Sharir's letter is in your hands, and to start our update on the political picture, you should perhaps read sections of this letter.

['Azran] Well, the letter reached us a few minutes ago, and let me read the main points. It is a long, three-page letter, and I will start with the background on Sharir's decision. Knesset Member [MK] Sharir writes that his decision stems from deep frustration shared by the Liberals, as well as an ongoing sense of rejection by the Herut leadership that took over the Likud, as he puts it, and exercised dictatorial tyranny in it while trampling on all social norms. He writes: The agreement on the unity of the Likud, for which I consistently and systematically had fought for long years, was rudely trampled upon, and no promise was kept. All hopes and dreams came to naught and turned into a nightmare.

Sharir places responsibility for the Likud's situation on the prime minister. He says: Responsibility for the situation in which the Likud finds itself, with the internal strife among the camps, factions and subfactions, and the fight over microphones and roles, lies with Yitzhaq Shamir and his group of advisers and confidants. The Likud members and the public in general know only a little about the inhuman and base deeds carried out against me and my family, deeds which I never before had encountered during all the long years of my public activity.

As for the criticism leveled at the prime minister, MK Sharir adds in his letter: The Likud's image and the prime minister's credibility have been dealt a harsh blow. Due to the failure to keep agreements, to false promises, and—here he uses sharp terms—due to the flagrant lies, every potential partner has been driven away to the point that several members, including myself, found it necessary to raise demands for financial guarantees to ensure the implementation of political promises. Such a thing, Sharir says, is unparalleled in the enlightened world; a new norm thus has been set for a lack of public credibility.

As for the reasons for his decision to support the Alignment, Sharir writes as follows: When I found myself pushed out of the Likud, and when voices in my faction increased in support for an Alignment-led government, I decided, following some hesitation, internal struggles, and deep mental agony, to give my hand to this for the following reasons—1. The present Likud leadership will not vacate its place for better people without a real upheaval. If this does not happen, the Likud does not have a chance of healing itself from the inside and regaining the beautiful era of Menahem Begin. 2. When the president entrusted the Alignment's candidate with the establishment of the government, I, as did many others, concluded that under the present conditions, this is the only chance to form a government.

The letter is longer still, but the above constitutes the main points.

[Witzthum] Well then, what is the meaning of these points written and signed by Avraham Sharir himself?

['Azran] The significance is clear now: MK Peres now enjoys the support of 61 MK's, and this is a Knesset majority for the establishment of a government, of course.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1850 GMT on 7 April also reports on Sharir's letter, adding that "according to his plans, Sharir has no intention of returning to the Likud. In addition, he has far-reaching plans for the future. For example, in one section of his letter, Sharir says he is leaving the Likud from the organizational viewpoint, but ideologically, he will continue to promote the liberal views he has upheld for years. An interesting point he made here reads as follows: I will aspire to establish a large central Zionist bloc which will break the ideological and political deadlock created by the two large camps. Together with my friends, I intend to reestablish the Liberal Party, which can contribute to the future of Israel. Namely, Avraham Sharir and his colleagues surely intend to embark on a new political road."]

[Witzthum] What about the other Liberals?

['Azran] This evening we learned of an additional development. At least another three Liberal MK's very much are wavering. Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i and MK's Goldstein and Grupper will open coalition talks with the Alignment if an agreement between them and the Likud is not signed tomorrow. The Liberals have a number of demands. Minister Moda'i retracted the demand to receive financial guarantees, but he still wants alternative guarantees, including, among other things, an ultimatum that all Likud ministers sign the agreement. It is difficult to see how all Likud ministers will march to Minister Moda'i's room to sign the agreement, and hence, according to sources very close to Minister

Moda'i, we understand that tomorrow the Liberals apparently will decide to act as an independent faction, and then will begin coalition negotiations with the Alignment.

[Witzthum] What is the Likud's reaction to this?

['Azran] The Likud is not engaged in reactions to what we have just said; I understand that in the course of this newsreel, they will digest what has been disclosed here. Still, the Likud estimated that MK Sharir already is in the Alignment's camp. A minister who is close to the prime minister told me this evening, and I quote: Matters will be decided only on Wednesday, during the Knesset vote. We no longer rely on MK Sharir; we have a card of our own. Also, and I am quoting again: We now act according to the new rules which Mr. Peres introduced into the political system.

Again, the above are remarks by a minister whose statements I greatly respect, but naturally, at this time of disinformation, things should be judged only when they happen. [passage omitted]

In reaction to Sharirs's letter, Hanan 'Azran reports: A senior Likud minister said: Sharir has stolen votes from the Likud and is transferring them to Shim'on Peres. The same minister added new information, whereby the Lubavitcher Rabbi has instructed Agudat Yisra'el to vote for Yitzhaq Shamir, and that now Agudat Yisra'el will have to deal with such an instruction, since at least one Agudat Yisra'el MK follows this rabbi's instructions and identifies with the Likud.

Olmert on Sharir's Move

TA0704202090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] Minister Ehud Olmert sharply reacted to Avraham Sharir's letter. Among other things, he said when Yitzhaq Shamir decided not to include Sharir in his government, he enjoyed a great deal of sympathy, since Sharir was a burden for the Likud. In Olmert's opinion, Sharir's move is a purely egotistical one. Sharir's move, Olmert says, stems from boundless addiction to personal convenience. This is an act of betrayal, Olmert emphasized.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 2000 GMT on 7 April reports, "The Prime Minister's Office reacts to Sharir's letter with a short sentence, as follows: It is beneath the prime minister's honor to argue with this man.

"Likud elements told our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz it is not surprising the letter does not mention the main reason for the defection, which is the reward given to Sharir by the Alignment: a double minister. It is strange a person who belonged in the constraints camp desired such a reward and is selling his seat to support a left-wing government that enjoys 'Arafat's support."]

Rally for Electoral Reform

TA0704203590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] Avi Qadish, the man who started the hunger strike that led to the large rally in Tel Aviv this evening in favor of an electoral reform, announced to the applause of tens of thousands of people that he and his friends will not allow the politicians to hitch a ride on the current wave of protest.

He promised that the headquarters of the campaign for reform and the crowds that support it will do everything they can to pressure the entire political system, both left and right, so the Knesset will agree to establish an experts team under the auspices of the president of the state. This committee will be entrusted with consolidating several proposals for an electoral reform, which will be decided upon in a national referendum. Every citizen will decide which system he supports, and we no longer will agree to have the politicians determine what is good for the people.

Avi Qadish stated that the protest vigil opposite the Knesset will continue, and the campaign headquarters will try to turn the upcoming Independence Day [30 April] into a day of protest on which thousands will arrive in Jerusalem to surround the Knesset building.

Our correspondents report that Qadish's remarks received a standing ovation, and he was the most outstanding speaker, even though he was preceded by mayors and representatives of other organizations who participated in organizing the large rally at the Malkhey Yisra'el Square in Tel Aviv this evening.

At the moment the crowds are quietly dispersing and going home.

Peres on Israel-Palestine Meeting

AU0804150090 Paris AFP in English 0719 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] Paris, April 8 (AFP)—Israeli Labour Party leader Shim'on Peres said that foreign ministers of Egypt, Israel, and the United States would soon meet in Cairo as part of Middle East peace initiatives. In an interview published Sunday by the JOURNAL DU DIMANCHE newspaper, Mr. Peres, who plans to form the next Israeli government, also reaffirmed his intention to "launch as quickly as possible a dialogue with the Palestinians".

He said that a Labour-led government would agree to negotiations with a Palestinian delegation from the Israeli-occupied territories and from Israeli-annexed East Jerusalem. "As soon as our government is formed and receives parliament's vote of confidence, we will tackle in an efficient and positive way the job of setting up a Palestinian delegation according to the terms of the Baker plan," he said.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has been calling for Israeli- Palestinian negotiations to take place in Cairo

ahead of elections for Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, as part of a five-point peace formula. A row over endorsement of the the American proposals broke out earlier this year between Labour and the right-wing Likud bloc, triggering last month the collapse of their coalition government.

Mr. Peres said he considered asking "one or two" Palestinian figures from the territories and as many from East Jerusalem to any future talks. He also voiced new confidence that a Labour-led government would be approved at a special parliamentary session Wednesday, adding that he could now count on majority support in the 120-member parliament to form a new administration.

"I sincerely think our majority will be more important than anything you imagine. I think that more than two MPs [members of parliament] will join forces with us," said Mr. Peres, who needs at least 61 of the 120 MPs on his side.

Alignment, Left-Wing on Guidelines

TA0804154290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] The Alignment and the three left-wing parties—Mapam [United Workers Party], the CRM [Citizens Rights Movement], and Shinuy—have consolidated the guidelines of the government to be headed by Shim'on Peres.

Our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the three left-wing parties may join the government according to these guidelines, and thus transform the accord into a coalition agreement. The document stipulates the three factions will retain their freedom of vote on matters pertaining to resolution of the Palestinian problem. It further adds the government periodically will examine all regulations effective in the territories, and ascertain that they meet the test of due process, as well as the preservation of human rights and Israel's international obligations, with special attention given to the humanitarian tenets of the Geneva Convention.

The CRM, MAPAM, and Shinuy retain for themselves the freedom to vote regarding amendments to the Anti-terror Act, which prohibits any meetings with PLO members.

The Alignment faction, for its part, will support the amendment proposed by MK David Liba'i on this matter.

Moda'i Negotiations Not Over

TA0804200290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] Our correspondents report that at this hour, a meeting is supposed to be taking place between the Alignment negotiating team and three members of Yitzhaq Moda'i's movement.

A short while ago, Minister Roni Milo said this evening the Likud made additional propositions to Moda'i's faction. According to Milo, the negotiations with Moda'i's men are not over, and he does not consider Shim'on Peres' statement claiming he has a stable majority in support of his government as final.

Alignment, Moda'i To Reconvene

TA0804202890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] The Alignment negotiating team and the three members of the Party for the Advancement of Zionist Ideology this evening decided to reconvene tomorrow to continue their discussion. Our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that this evening, they conferred for some two hours at MK Yosi Beilin's home. The discussion mainly was conducted to provide Moda'i, Grupper, and Goldstein with information concerning agreements the Alignment already has signed with the other parties that will take part in Peres' government, and to discuss other parties who could join this coalition.

In the Alignment it is believed that disengaging the three from the Likud is substantial, and that there is no way they would return to the Likud.

Reportage on Hostage Threat, Possible Release

ICRC Comments on Threat

NC0704072890 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] The International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] has rejected [rafadat] the threat made by the Action Organization [Munazzamat al-'Amal] that it will execute one of the ICRC representatives abducted in Sidon six months ago if al-Hariri [Lebanese being held in Switzerland on terrorism charges] is not released. The ICRC added there is no evidence the person who called a foreign news agency in Nicosia is linked to the kidnappers.

Group Seeking Valente Release

NC0704103890 Paris AFP in English 1023 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Beirut, April 7 (AFP)—The Palestinian extremist group of Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] announced here Saturday the imminent release of French hostage Jacqueline Valente and her family. [passage omitted]

[At 0945 GMT, AFP reports that Fatah Revolutionary Council spokesman Walid Khalid said Ms. Valente and family would be set free in the "very near" future but he declined to elaborate, saying only: "Negotiations are under way to finalise the modalities of the release."

On Friday, the FRC said it was negotiating the release of Mrs. Valente, her Belgian companion Fernand Houtekins, and their daughter Sophie-Liberte, born in captivity.

The fate of four other Belgians from the Houtekins family and another child born to Mrs Valente in captivity is not known. The group was abducted by the FRC in November 1987 from aboard the Silco yacht in the eastern Mediterranean.] Meanwhile, four hitherto unknown Muslim groups Saturday said they were making contacts for the release of hostages from the Middle East in response to Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's call, bringing to eight the number of groups claiming such action since Thursday.

The Organisation of the Mujahidin for Palestine, the Organisation of Revolutionary Muslim Lebanese, the Organisation for the Jihad (holy war) in the Path of Allah and the Organisation of Mujahidin ulema made their announcements in four separate statements handed to a Western news agency in Syrian-controlled West Beirut.

All four used almost similar phraseology and placed ther typewritten Arabic communiques in identical envelopes.

They said they were "undertaking contacts" and "deploying all possible efforts for the release of the hostages of the Middle East in response to the humanitarian appeal issued by Col al-Qadhdhafi" and described him as an "Islamic leader".

Three other unknown groups—the Organisation of the soldiers of Prophet Muhammad (Jund Muhammad), the Organisation of Allah Akbar- Sons of Lebanon and the Organisation of Muslims Preaching Freedom—issued similar statements Friday.

Seventeen Westerners are missing in Lebanon, with several of them believed held by pro-Iranian groups there while the abduction of eight has not been claimed by any faction.

FRC on Release of Swiss

NC0704142590 Paris AFP in English 1409 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Beirut, April 7 (AFP)—A Palestinian extremist group holding French and Belgian hostages called Saturday for the release of two Swiss Red Cross workers kidnapped last October in south Lebanon.

"We call on those who abducted the International Committee of the Red Cross hostages, Emanuel Christen and Elio Erriquez, to free them," the Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC) said in a communique received by a Western news agency here.

"We address ourselves, as brothers, to those who have, however, caused harm to our movement, and we are ready to provide material and moral guarantees ... to help end this drama," the group led by Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] said. [passage omitted]

Valente Release To Proceed

NC0804143190 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1421 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] The Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] group, Fatah—the Revolutionary Council [FRC]—distributed a statement in Beirut today affirming that preparations to release Jacqueline Valente, her husband [as heard], and daughter will take place as planned. FRC spokesman Walid Khalid reassurred all parties preparations are proceeding as planned, and that he will announce the date and place of these hostages' release at the appropriate time.

Further on Hostage Release

LD0804211690 Paris Domestic Service in French 2030 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] An official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs arrived in Beirut this afternoon. He is Daniel Bremad, secretary general of cultural affairs at the Quai d'Orsay. Although the information has not been confirmed, the visit could be connected with the expected release of Jacqueline Valente, her companion, and their baby.

Ja'ja' Said Targeted for Assassination 31 Mar

NC0704162590 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] As political circles are waiting for the results of the intensive domestic, Arab, and international political efforts regarding the situation in Lebanon in light of the latest developments and the discussion taking place in West Beirut about the recently declared stands of the eastern area's parties, a major escalation of the media war between the two conflicting parties in East Beirut has been observed. The media campaigns were resumed this morning in a ferocious manner that overshadowed the security setback on the Darayya-al-Qulay'at front.

The 'Awn radio station spoke of an attempt to assassinate Lebanese Forces Commander Samir Ja'ja' on 31 March with a booby-trapped car rigged with 250 kg of high explosives. The station cited so-called security sources as saying the incident occurred while Ja'ja' was inspecting his gunmen's offices and positions in Juniyah. A leading Lebanese Forces official was arrested and charged with planning the operation. He was immediately executed along with three other gunmen. The station also spoke of divisions in the ranks of the Lebanese Forces.

The Lebanese Forces media responded with an attack on 'Awn and his media, accusing him of greatly distorting the facts. The Lebanese Forces media said that Michel 'Awn has thwarted all attempts to calm the situation and rejected all resolutions, adopted at various levels, calling for remedying the situation. They said he did not even once adhere to a political, military, or media truce. They added that his media continued to disseminate cheap lies and fabrications which reflected the extent of their bankruptcy.

The Lebanese Forces media also spoke of divisions within the ranks of the al-Yarzah army and cited the breakaway so-called Honor, Sacrifice, and Loyalty Unit as saying it will continue to strike the positions of the forces loyal to 'Awn until these forces join the legitimate command under General Emile Lahhud.

Ja'ja' Interview With Media on 'Initiative'

NC0704210290 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] In an interview with Channel 7 and AL-LIWA', Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' explained his initiative of handing over army barracks to General Lahhud.

He said: The first step to be considered is how to reunite the military institution and all the state institutions. Proceeding from this point, we addressed our call to General Lahhud to take over the army barracks in the eastern area.

Ja'ja' added: We should emerge as soon as possible from the current situation from which we all are suffering in East and West Beirut and in all of Lebanon. The state and legitimate institutions are essential, no matter what our view is of the future, our aspirations, and our plan for the solution. Foremost of these institutions is Lebanese Army, which with the presence of Genral 'Awn, turned into a gang under his command and into other groups. Some of these groups returned to their homes, some emigrated, and some joined Colonel Paul Faris in 'Amshit because they refused to cooperate with Michel 'Awn and his method of action.

Further on Ja'ja' Interview

NC0804084990 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' said last night his call for [Army Commander] General Emile Lahhud to take over the army barracks in the eastern area was reached after lengthy consideration produced a strong conviction for this, and noted no strings are attached to the offer. Ja'ja' dismissed allegations the move is a gimmick and said time will prove the offer's sincerity.

Ja'ja' explained the motives for the move in an interview with Lebanese TV Channel 7. He said: We have to emerge as soon as possible from the current state of confusion in East and West Beirut and in every part of Lebanon. Ja'ja' added: The state institutions and legitimacy are indispensable to the country, and this is true regardless of any differences in our opinions, our visions of the future, and our plans for solution.

Foremost among the state institutions is the Lebanese Army, which General 'Awn has turned into a militia loyal to him, thus forcing many of its personnel to desert him and stay home, leave the area, or join Colonel Paul Faris [commander of the Lebanese Army neutral command] in 'Amshit. Ja'ja' said the most urgent task is to put the military institution back together. The state departments also need similar rehabilitation.

It is in this understanding, Ja'ja' said, that Gen. Lahhud was asked to take charge of the army barracks. Ja'ja' recalled that Gen. 'Awn has said that he is not opposed to such a move or to the unification of the army.

Dr. Ja'ja' called on the institutions and departments of the legitimate government to resume work and provide the public with services. Ja'ja' noted that public services, such as electricity, telephones, and water, and economic issues are no longer the responsibility of Gen. 'Awn; they are the responsibility of President al-Hirawi's government. Dr. Ja'ja' said the Lebanese Forces is not responsible for running government departments. These departments are the responsibility of the state, and the state should operate them to serve the public. He expressed his willingness to hand over the [Beirut] port to the army.

As for the al-Ta'if agreement, Ja'ja' reiterated the agreement is a good framework within which to discuss

current issues and political problems. He noted, however, the agreement does not constitute a solution to the Lebanese problem, despite the positive atmosphere it could generate.

Dr. Ja'ja' underlined the Lebanese Forces' desire to see international pressure for a Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon. He noted a Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon should remain the focus of political efforts in the country. Dr. Ja'ja' said the Lebanese Forces supported Gen. 'Awn against Syria, but differed with him on many of his other political views. The Lebanese Forces had preferred, however, to keep silent on these differences of opinion to avert an internal confrontation such as the one currently taking place. Ja'ja' noted that since the onset of the crisis, the Lebanese Forces always have taken very clear positions and unequivocably stated them.

Al-Huss on Call To Take Over Army Barracks

NC0804152790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss has answered a question about the government's readiness to respond to the call made to the legitimacy to take over the army's barracks. He said: The legitimate authority represented by the government called and continues to call upon all to join its march—a march of peace, accord, and reconstruction. Anyone who declares his allegiance to the legitimacy and adherence to the al-Ta'if national accord document will fulfill legitimacy's call. We will not become involved in the conflict and side with one party against another. We demand all parties respond to the call of legitimacy. It is natural we should welcome any response to this call.

As for the question of the barracks, he added, it is the subject of serious study in a positive spirit to safeguard any step we might take within the framework of the government's strategy aimed at imposing the legitimate authority over all Lebanon, retrieving all the state's institutions, and reuniting them as soon as possible. We are nearing the implementation of this cardinal goal with our steps steady, God willing.

Skirmishes in Kasrawan; Sniper Fire in E. Beirut

NC0704172090 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] Skirmishes involving tank weapons, artillery, and rockets continue on the combat lines in Darayya, al-Qulay'at, and 'Ajaltun in upper Kasrawan and al-Matn. Guarded calm, marred by occasional sniper fire from light- and medium-caliber weapons, prevails on the combat lines in East Beirut.

Amal, Hizballah Clash Reported in Suburb

NC0804143690 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] Clashes with rockets and machine guns have been taking place between Amal and Hizballah gunmen on al-Hajjaz Street and in the outskirts of Burj al-Barajinah near the airport road and al- Maramil [in Beirut's Southern Suburb] since 1515 today.

According to preliminary reports, the Hizballah positions in these areas came under unexpected attack. Amal is using 120-mm mortars, deployed in the al-Marimil area, to shell the Hizballah positions. The reports add that Hizballah has sufferred several casualties.

[Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic at 1530 GMT 8 April, in a similar report adds: "Citizen Muhammad Karnib was killed in the fighting and was transferred to al-Barbir Hospital. Three others, including Ahmad Hazzuni and Khudr Haydar, were injured."]

Amal, Israeli Forces Clash in Southern Area

NC0804151890 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] Clashes with machine guns and rockets have been taking place between fundamentalist gunmen of the Amal Movement and the Israeli forces on the road between al-Tayyibah and Dayr Siryan since shortly before midday today.

Amal issued a statement saying its members succeeded in destroying two Israeli armored personnel carriers. It added that two of its members were killed and seven others wounded in the fighting with the Israeli forces. The statement also said the Israelis have been bombarding Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr, and Mayfadun.

Intensive flights by Israeli helicopters over the site of the fighting have been reported.

USSR 'To Refurbish' Aircraft, Air Defenses

JN0704175090 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 6 Apr 90 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that intensive secret contacts are under way between Syria and the Soviet Union to refurbish the Syrian air defense missile systems, as well as Air Force combat aircraft.

Soviet sources have told AL-ITTIHAD those contacts have gone a long way, and the contracts are expected to be implemented this summer. The arms will be delivered to Syria in shipments at short intervals. AL-ITTIHAD also has learned Syria pledged to pay the cost of these contracts—approximately $2.5 billion—on delivery.

Al-Fahum Addresses Ba'th Party Anniversary Rally

JN0704123590 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 0934 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Speech by Khalid al-Fahum, former Palestine National Council speaker, at rally marking Ba'th Party 43d anniversary in Damascus—live]

[Text] Your Excellency struggler brother 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party [applause]; brother members of the regional and national command of the Ba'th Party; brother members of the Central Committee of the Progressive National Front; brother ministers; ladies and gentlemen: With increasing hope, determination, sacrifice, and self-confidence, Arab Syria, together with the enlightened masses of our Arab nation, welcome the anniversary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. The birth of the party on 7 April 1947 was an important event in the history of Arab Syria and marked the emergence of the slogan of unity, freedom, and socialism. Since the party was born, the lines of Arab struggle have been drawn: work toward unity as our fate and our way to salvation; work toward freedom as the natural climate of unity and pan-Arab presence; and work toward socialism as the dignity of the masses, the guarantee for everyone, and the road to the future.

More than any other ideological phenomenon, the Ba'th phenomenon had various aspects, most prominent of which was the party's experience in leading the state and the society in the Syrian Arab country. For more than 20 years after the glorious 8 March revolution, the party managed to apply its theories during the phase of secret struggle, especially in terms of the freedom of the Arab will and the concomitance of the regional struggle with the pan-Arab struggle. The big beginning was in 1970 when the Corrective Movement emerged with new spirit and method, responding to the masses' aspirations, and waging the glorious October war, which launched a new phase in the Arab-Zionist conflict, giving the initiative to the Arabs. All these pan-Arab meanings were represented by the phenomenon of the historic, inspired leadership, the leadership armed with strong belief, farsightedness, and pan-Arab awareness, the leadership of the hero of liberation and steadfastness, struggling President Hafiz al-Asad. [applause]

Together with the brightness brought by the Ba'th to the Syrian Arab country, the heart and brain of Arabism, there also have been other aspects of sacrifice that can correctly be considered prominent among the party and Corrective Movement achievements. The Ba'th was the party of all the Arabs, the party of Arab unity and pan-Arabism. Its principles dominated the great Arab homeland. These principles were translated into words and action by the leader of Arab struggle, President Hafiz al-Asad. [applause] From the beginning, the Ba'th safeguarded the Palestinian question in the face of the strongest conspiracies of liquidation. It made the Palestinian question the central issue of Arab struggle and mobilized all of Syria's resources on behalf of Palestine, its revolution, and its people's intifadah.

Here are our kinfolk in Palestine, staging a mammoth popular revolution for the past 29 months. This revolution will continue and escalate until our inalienable national rights are attained; namely, our rights to return, self-determination, and the establishment of the independent state on Palestinian soil. Our Palestinian Arab people are faithful to their pan-Arab objectives and are shouting as one voice in every camp, village, and city that there will be no coexistence with the occupation, and no voice can rise above the voice of the intifadah. The intifadah has inflamed the feelings of the Arab masses and their nationalist and progressive forces, increased determination for struggle and resistance, and given back due consideration to the call of effective Arab solidarity against the imperialist-Zionist alliance. It furthermore took the Palestinian question back to its international position as the most important liberation issue in the world.

So brothers, the intifadah has become the hope of our people and nation, not only for defeating the occupation, but also for stopping the series of concessions on the Palestinian scene. The high-handed command in the PLO believed all cards for a solution were in the hands of America, and that concessions asked by the United States should be made to satisfy the Americans. They have presented a great deal and trespassed on all red lines. They accepted Security Council Resolution No. 242, although it does not speak about the Palestinian question as a political question about a people struggling to achieve their rights to return, to self-determination, and the establishment of the independent state on the soil of Palestine. They also recognized Israel's right to exist at a time when Israel refuses to recognize the PLO, the rights of our people, or even the presence of these people.

They also announced their renunciation of violence, meaning, as the United States understands it, the abandonment of armed struggle. This comes at a time when the occupation forces are firing live bullets at our defenseless children, women, and old men, who are armed only with stones, and continuing their mad

shelling of our camps and kinfolk in southern Lebanon. The high-handed Palestinian leadership in the PLO also has expressed readiness to take part in a Palestinian-Israeli meeting. These leaders did not even object to the Baker plan, which is a photocopy of the Shamir plan on elections in the West Bank and Gaza; elections on the Israeli way to perpetuate the occupation of these territories and plant them with settlements and immigrants as a prelude to their Judaization.

The Palestinians, according to Israeli and U.S. ideas, are the inhabitants only of the West Bank and Gaza. We announce our Palestinian people are one, whether in the West Bank and Gaza, in the territories occupied in 1948, or in the diaspora. Our people refuse to be disintegrated. [applause]

The high-handed people in the PLO talk a great deal about Israel's right to exist, as though we have been wrong during the past 50 years and Israel and its existence right. The elections referred to by Baker and Shamir deny the existence of the PLO and its right to represent the Palestinian people. Shamir has rejected the participation of any Palestinian unacceptable to Israel. From the beginning, the PLO's dealing with these plans meant only bilateral negotiations leading solely to a bilateral solution paralleling, at best, the Camp David accords. This deal also strikes a major blow at the idea of the international conference.

They also have announced that the charter, whose banner our people have struggled under for scores of years, is obsolete. Last but not least, they have begun to talk about the independence of Palestinian decisionmaking at both regional and pan-Arab levels.

Since the Balfour Declaration, the Palestine question has been the question of all Arabs. The Palestinians are part of the Arab nation, and the Zionist onslaught is aimed at subjugating the entire Arab homeland. The Palestinian people only are the vanguards in confronting the Zionist invasion. Talk about the independence of Palestinian decisionmaking at a pan-Arab level means moving away from the Arabs and submitting to Zionism; it is blasphemy at its worst.

Brothers: The high-handed command in the PLO made all these concessions, so what was the reaction of the United States, which asked for these concessions? A few days ago, the U.S. Senate declared that Jerusalem should remain undivided and the capital of Israel, and that the Jews had the right to settle wherever they wanted, in Jerusalem and elsewhere. The United States applied pressure on Malev to go back on its decision not to transport Jewish emigrants from the USSR to Israel. This actually happened, and Malev now is transporting 1,500 immigrants to Israel every week. The United States is continuing its financial, political, and military assistance to Israel. It now is providing Israel with a grant of $400 million, in addition to previously decided grants, to facilitate settlement. It is offering Israel a network of antimissile missiles, as if Israel were defenseless. The United States is pressing the USSR into opening the doors of emigration to tens of thousands of Jews, who are in fact Soviet citizens. This encourages Israel to continue its expansion and expulsion of Arabs from their homes and property.

In Israel and elsewhere, they now are talking about an alternative homeland; that is, settling the Palestinians in Jordan. We raise our voice loudly to warn the Palestinians and the Arabs against the gravity of this design. The alternative homeland will create a bloody conflict between the sons of one nation, in which many Arabs would take part and which would be exacerbated by the hostile intelligence services in a manner that would make what happened in Lebanon during the last 15 years seem much less dreadful than what they are planning for Jordan to establish a Greater Israel from the Nile to the Euphrates. Through their encouragement of influential Palestinian leaders to offer these concessions, America and Israel seek to sow confusion among the ranks of the intifadah in preparation for attacking and containing it.

Brothers, we realize it is not possible to talk about a revolution or liberation before the achievement of national unity within the framework of the PLO. National unity, however, only can be built based on renouncing capitulationist plans, halting contacts with the Zionists, and adhering to the National Charter and national constants. This isolationist, fascist onslaught in Lebanon with the support of Israel and other hostile forces, designed to make the situation explode and to add fuel to the civil war, is not pointless. It is not so pointless that they attacked the Syrian role, which guarantees Lebanon's unity and Arabism. The aim of this scheme is to partition Lebanon into statelets and cantons subjected to Israel. Syria, led by struggler President Hafiz al-Asad [applause], firmly stands against this scheme, defending Lebanon's Arabism and unity.

Brothers, cohesion with Arab Syria is the guarantee for a continued and effective Palestinian revolution. There is an infallible rule: The closer the revolution to Syria, the stronger and more effective it becomes. The farthest it moves from Syria, the more disabled and deviant from its objectives it becomes. Militant Syrian-Palestinian unity is not a slogan to be raised, but a historical condition for any effective revolutionary breakthrough. The revolution of our kinfolk in Palestine, the Golan Heights, and southern Lebanon enjoy comprehensive world support from the revolutionary and progressive forces and from many world states, headed by the friendly Soviet Union.

Brothers, on the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party anniversary, we address the greetings of Arab Palestine to all the party's strugglers and leaders. We are confident the hour of victory is imminent. How else, when Arab struggle is led by a radiant torch of determination, firmness, and Arab knighthood named Hafiz al-Asad? [applause]

Al-Ahmar Addresses Rally

JN0704143790 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1032 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Speech by 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, Ba'th Party assistant secretary general, at a speech rally at Damascus University on the 43d anniversary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party—live]

[Excerpts] Comrades, brothers, esteemed audience, and masses of our Arab nation: With the passage of time, 7 April remains an immortal day in the history of the contemporary Arab struggle. When this day comes every year, we mark an anniversary dear to our hearts, the anniversary of that day in the spring of 1947 when the strugglers of the Ba'th Movement met to proclaim the birth of a popular political group that was to play the leading and most important role in the contemporary national and progressive Arab struggle. [passage omitted]

We seize the opportunity of this beloved occasion to reaffirm our committment to our march guided by the Ba'th, and we now are more faithful, more determined, and more ready to offer sacrifices to pursue the road toward attainment of the goals of the Arab struggle in terms of unity, freedom, and socialism. [applause] These are the goals the Ba'th Party has sought for the past 43 years. It acts as a beacon to guide its march and enable it to follow the correct path whenever there had been more than one path or trend to choose from. [passage omitted]

Comrades, we now are witnessing intensive activity by comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad, the leader of this nation's struggle [applause], who through his activities, visits, and meetings on the Arab level is exerting every possible effort to consolidate broad, effective Arab solidarity that can unite the Arab nation's strength during this crucial period; a solidarity based on fundamental constants that affirm the pan-Arab essence of our contemporary situation and make all other considerations secondary. Our battle against the Zionist enemy and imperialism, which protects it and supplies it all the components of aggression, is a battle of existence and fate. It is the greatest common denominator among all Arabs. The recent changes in the international arena have confirmed all against which the Ba'th had warned. The emigration of the Khazar Jews seeking to colonize Arab land is one of the most dangerous schemes of aggression and colonialism. A self-respecting nation cannot allow its land to be stolen and its sanctities despoiled while it stands idle. The time has come to sound the alarm, not because it is a new threat, but because developments confirm this threat has become more ominous in our daily life and more explicit—to the point no one can close his eyes to it, no matter how limited his thinking or ability to analyze developments. O Arabs, the time has come to sound the alarm. Who else but the Arab knight, and the leader symbol Hafiz al-Asad can do this? [applause and chanting] Yes, it is the leader symbol, Hafiz al-Asad who said this one month ago when he resoundingly told the nation: Syria now, as it has for years, is warning against establishment of Greater Israel from the Nile to the Euphrates. World Zionism is working for this objective, and it will not deviate from it, because it is their sacred dream. Will the Arabs have anything left worth mentioning if such an objective is attained? Are we alert to this? Are we acting as though we feel the responsibility we should assume toward this threat? Are we putting this threat at the top of our list of priorities, or in even in second place? I can say it has no place among our priorities. Is this a nation that has learned lessons from history? [passage omitted]

Our party has consistently related to the forward movement of the masses toward their self-realization. The Arab nation cannot afford to put itself outside the current of history. [passage omitted]

The valiant Palestinian intifadah came to underscore the militant picture through which the Arab nation recognized itself and discovered its substance, which nearly was lost in the thick of successive events. The intifadah has marked a qualitative shift in the militant Arab march and pointed the right way to the nationalist solution that no nation can afford to give up and at the same time claim a place among vibrant nations. The bottom line is the principle of a nation holding fast to and defending its rights and promoting its own resources and capabilities to be able to reject any solution that runs counter to these rights. If we the Arabs are less than prepared to defend our rights, we have to realize no one else will be prepared to do this job for us. If we shoulder the responsibility for defending our rights, we will have made it easier for our friends in the world to back us. Indeed, this backing will follow naturally from our adherence to our rights. [passage omitted]

We are all for the implementation of the national accord reached in al-Ta'if and the consolidation and promotion of a political system in Lebanon based on equality among its children. We firmly stand by our heroic Palestinian people as they wage their gigantic intifadah, which has influenced events in favor of our nation, fate, and future. [passage omitted]

Comrades: On this occasion, we would like to emphasize our solidarity with all peoples and movements striving for their freedom, independence, progress, and prosperity. We would like to reaffirm the importance of our friendship and cooperation with the Soviet Union, and the continuation of this friendship, which always has constituted the framework for bolstering the militant Arab capability for confrontation of Israeli plans of expansion against Arab lands. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Deaths, Injuries Reported During Herat Ceremony

7 Generals, 25 Officials Killed

BK0704144090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1421 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] Islamabad, April 7 (AFP)—Seven Afghan Army generals and 25 officials were killed and 100 people injured after guerrillas opened fire at a supposed rebel arms surrender, the resistance MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN] news agency said Saturday [7 April].

MIDIA, which is controlled by the resistance Afghan Interim Government, said the "heroic premeditated attack" Friday in the western province of Herat was planned four months ago by two commanders affiliated to the Jamiat-e Eslami-e rebel faction, Qazi Mohammad Kashmir and Gholam Yahia Akdari.

The agency added that 100 people were wounded in the attack including the governor of Herat and several local high-ranking officials from President Najibullah's ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA).

Government tanks had opened fire indiscriminately at a large crowd watching the ceremony killing "numerous" civilians, it said.

Earlier other parties, notably Jabha, the national liberation front of Sebghatullah Mojaddedi, claimed to have organised the attack.

Other resistance sources suggested that the attack had been planned to kill Mr. Najibullah, who they said had been invited to attend the ceremony billed as Afghanistan's largest arms surrender, but instead sent the governor.

Reports Friday said at least two generals, including the deputy security minister, Jalal Razmenda, and about a dozen civilians were killed in close combat at the ceremony which involved some 3,000 armed guerrillas in Pashtun Zhargun.

MIDIA however said seven generals, including the deputy security minister, and 25 government or PDPA officials were killed.

General Buried With 'Top' Honors

BK0704101490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0956 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, April 7 (AFP)—An Afghan general killed in a massacre at a resistance surrender ceremony was buried with top military honours here Saturday [7 April] in a funeral attended by military officers and civilians.

Lieutenant General Jalal Razaminda, who was also a deputy minister in the Security Ministry, was buried at the prestigious Martyrs' Hill in the capital here by members of the armed forces and his relatives.

More than 2,000 grim-faced officers and civilians marched through Kabul's streets with a picture of the general, who was slain in a surprise mujahidin attack Friday during a prearranged surrender at western Herat Province's Pashtun Zhargun village. Reports here said an unnamed general also killed in the attack was buried with military honours in Herat, 1,200 kilometres (720 miles) west of Kabul.

Several other military commanders, including Herat Governor Fazel Haq Khaliq Yaar, were shot and wounded in the gun battle after several rebels fired automatic weapons at the ceremony, billed as the largest arms surrender by the mujahidin.

A government spokesman said it was not clear how many were killed in Friday's incident. He blamed the massacre on terrorists. "It is not our fault," the spokesman said of the slaughter of officers and civilians in the savage battle that lasted between 15 and 20 minutes and was witnessed by several journalists. The attack proves that the terrorists who attacked the generals oppose our national reconciliation plans," he said, referring to the 1986 peace policy announced by President Najibullah to persuade guerrillas to quit the anti-government resistance.

But Kabul stuck to its claim that the 10,000 rebels who came to Pashtun Zhargun did surrender as planned after the skirmish in which one local journalist was seriously wounded. "They (the rebels) cannot justify these actions and we will pursue our policy of national reconciliation," the spokesman said, adding that the mass surrender in herat was a "great achievement."

The massacre, the first during a surrender ceremony, has stunned the Soviet-backed government which one month ago survived a coup attempt led by former Defence Minister Shahnawaz Tanay.

Najibullah Mourns Slain General

LD0704182490 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Regrettably, we have received a report that Lieutenant General Jalal Razmenda, deputy minister of the Ministry of State Security and head of the fifth unit of this ministry, who was injured yesterday in Herat Province during the ceremony in which the armed groups were coming over in support of the policy of national reconciliation, has been martyred. [passage omitted]

Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, and Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers, accompanied by several members of the High Defense Council of the Homeland, went today to the house of martyred Lt. Gen. Jalal Razmenda and expressed condolence to members of his family.

Esteemed Najibullah expressed condolences to the leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan over the martyrdom of Lt. Gen. Jalal Razmenda. Najibullah expressed appreciation for his valuable work and services for the homeland, the people, and the realization of the policy of national reconciliation. Esteemed Najibullah prayed to Almighty God for his forgiveness and steadfastness for his family members.

'Fragility' of Regime's Policy

BK0704103090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1010 GMT 7 April 90

[Text] Islamabad, April 7 (AFP)—The false surrender that turned to massacre by the Afghan resistance illustrates the fragility of the "national reconciliation" policy pursued by Kabul, Western analysts said here Saturday [7 April]. The guerrillas opened fire on unsuspecting Army generals Friday at what was supposed to have been an arms surrender in the western province of Herat near the Soviet and Iranian borders. At least a dozen people were killed, including two Afghan Army generals, and some 50 people were injured, including the governor of Herat.

Guerrillas say President Najibullah's policy, launched three years ago while the Soviet Union still occupied the country, has failed and they refuse any compromise with what they call "a puppet regime associated with the Soviet Union's crimes against the Afghan nation."

The Afghan Government has succeeded in the past in "buying" some commanders, making local truces in various regions, and skillfully pursuing the Soviet strategy of "divide and conquer," say resistance political leaders in exile in Pakistan. But the majority of mujihidin and the main guerrilla leaders inside Afghanistan will never play by the rules of Mr. Najibullah, the former chief of the KhAD secret police, which they have qualified as "criminals, jointly responsible for the deaths of several hundred thousand Afghans."

A number of Pakistani-based Islamic groups fighting to topple the Soviet-backed regime in Kabul are claiming responsibility for Friday's attack. In Peshawar, Jamiat-e Eslami-e representatives said Saturday that the group led by renowned guerrilla leader Isma'il Khan had planned the incident for four months. And other factions, notably Jabha, the national liberation front of Sebghatullah Mojaddedi, claimed to have organized "the plot."

Western diplomats posted here have noted a recent loss of influence by Mr. Khan in the region of Herat. They said Saturday that the incident, at which 3,000 mujihidin and 7,000 of their supporters were to give up their arms in a symbolic ceremony, was designed by commanders "to curb the hemmoraging" at the heart of the resistance.

The Kabul regime has said it succeeded in recent years in making local truces in several regions of Afghanistan, notably in Qandahar in the south and around certain northern cities. In most cases, it was not acts of allegiance on the part of rebel factions, but the "buying of neutrality" to prevent certain mujihidin groups from exerting their influence or to facilitate the passage of government convoys in strategic sectors, the analysts said.

The incident in Herat constitutes a new attack on the government of Kabul, one month after an attempted military coup organized by one of the factions of the ruling party, the analysts said.

Najibullah Issues Statement

LD0704210490 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Excerpts] The following message by the president of Afghanistan was issued in Kabul on 7 April 1990 on the tragic historic mishap of Herat on 6 April:

Dear compatriots. Our country is in a sensitive phase of its history, and people increasingly perceive the righteousness of the policy of national reconciliation and give it their support and express their hatred and repulsion for the war and those who fan up the futile fratricide fighting.

The support of thousands of our compatriots who, until yesterday had been in the ranks of the armed opposition, is clear evidence of the truth of the policy of national reconciliation and of the fact that people separate their path from the path of the armed opposition, who intend to continue their shameful life at the price of the Afghans' blood. They have shown they no longer want to bargain their ancestor's homeland for the interests of the intelligence services of Pakistan and other foreigners. The continuous defeats of military efforts and armed conspiracies all indicate the resolute determination of the people and Armed Forces to repulse every effort for seeking a military solution. For this reason, the flames of the enemy's anger rage, and thus they attempt to prevent the restoration of peace in the country so that they continue to profit by fighting and continue their shameful life for a few days.

Dear compatriots, you are aware that the brave, courageous, and peace-loving people of historic Herat Province have taken firm and broad steps for the restoration of peace in their province. Contrary to the foolish predictions of extremists, Herat is not only being safeguarded, but the atmosphere of peace and calmness has spread and been consolidated by the courage and proud Afghan honor of the armed groups who support the policy of national reconciliation. In continuation of these gains, groups numbering several thousands, under the command of esteemed Aqa 'Abdul 'Aziz Burani, Haji Malang, and Gholam Mohayuddin, decided to cease fighting and take part, by the assistance of Almighty God, in the restoration of peace and construction of the country.

The enemies of peace and the homeland, who no longer have any place among the people and have exposed their anti-national, anti-humane, and anti-Islamic nature, could not tolerate the separation of such a large number of men who came over in support of the national reconciliation policy in Herat Province. Therefore, they embarked on a cowardly, anti-Islamic, anti-Afghan cultural conspiracy. Two professional terrorists opened fire on the people, the most noble people who, day and night, accept all difficulties and work to restore peace and end the war. In this month of Ramadan, they martyred Lieutenant General Jalal 'Abdul Jalal Razmenda; Aqa 'Abdul 'Aziz Burani; Haji Malang; Sayd Nasir; Wali Muhammad; Major Gul Muhammad, and Hashmatullah, a soldier in Herat. [passage omitted]

Furthermore, several others, including esteemed Fazl Haq Khaliqyar, minister counsellor and governor general of Herat Province, were injured. I pray to Almighty God, with the blessing of this holy month of Ramadan, forgive the souls of our pure martyrs and bestow steadfastness to their families and bestow quick recovery to those injured in this tragic mishap.

Najibullah Visits Ambush Victims

LD0804063790 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 1530 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, April 7, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, went this afternoon to the hospital of the Academy of Medical Sciences and visited Fazel Haq Kaliqyar, adviser minister and governor of North-West Zone and four other persons who were wounded by professional terrorists on April 6 during the joining ceremony of the armed groups to the policy of national reconciliation at Pashtun Zarghun District of Herat Province, reports BAKHTAR military correspondent.

President Najibullah accompanied by full general Ghulam Faruq Yaqubi, minister of state security, wished them good health and gave necessary instructions to the responsible officials for their treatment.

'Massacre' Aimed at Najibullah

BK0904143290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1413 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] Islamabad, April 9 (AFP)—The resistance-engineered plot that turned last week's surrender ceremony into a bloodshed in western Herat was designed to kill Afghan President Najibullah, planners of the massacre here said Monday [9 April]. They said the ploy, carried out Friday by a suicide squad, was also designed to derail Mr. Najibullah's national reconciliation policy.

"The regime will now think twice before accepting a surrender" by mujahidin, Mu'allim 'Abdul Karim and Commander 'Abdul Wahid Mukhlis, who said they supervised the operation, told a joint press conference here. The pair said they belonged to a group of confidants of the resistance Jamiat-e Eslami faction, which arranged the April 6 operation with a five-member suicide squad. They firmly rejected claims from other resistance factions.

At least six Afghan Army generals were killed along with a senior army official, while 80 civilians or plainclothes "regime agents" lied or were wounded in the shootout lasting about a half-hour, said Dr. Najibullah Lafrai, a senior Jamiat leader and information minister in the resistance's interim government, who was also present.

Commander Karim said he was in close contact with his men, positioned only four kilometers (two miles) from the Pashtun Zarghun, site of the ceremony.

Two squad members died and two were injured, while the fifth—who escaped injuries—was on way to the bordering Pakistan city of Quetta, he said. The surrendering force fled in chaos, he added.

The Jamiat commanders said the plot was originally the brainchild of a turncoat guerrilla leader, Haji Malang, who also died in the crossfire when government tanks joined the battle.

Since switching loyalties last year, Mr. Malang had been serving as the regime's militia commander with several hundred men under him. He contacted the Jamiat in winter and apparently agreed to "compensate" for the losses his defection had caused to the resistance.

"Let us kill some top regime officials" was his response to his party, which maintained "loose links" with Mr. Malang, they said.

The commander, said to have Mr. Najibullah high on his hit list, had earlier invited the Afghan ruler in vain to big tribal meal in December to celebrate the 11th anniversary of the Soviet troop invasion.

The rebel commander said that after the failure to receive Mr. Najibullah, Mr. Malang decided to organise a more ceremonous gathering with some 3,000 armed guerrillas and thousands of unarmed men staging a mock surrender.

Mr. Malang was confident that Mr. Najibullah, keen to promote his national reconciliation, would participate in the "big show," he said. He said the plot had consent of Jamiat chief Burhanuddin Rabbani, who was in Iran last month. "We went to Tehran to personally obtain his go-ahead," Mr. Karim said.

He said the suicide squad did not know that Mr. Najibullah would not come until the top officials alighted from the government helicopter with a group of foreign press correspondents.

Dr. Lafrai also ruled out that the plot could have been leaked out to the Afghan ruler. "If President Najibullah knew it, he would not have sent so many important

officials, including his trusted deputy security minister, Lieutenant General Jalal Razamenda," he said.

"We are very much satisfied with the results," he said, adding that in addition to the slain General Razamenda were Herat's Governor Fazel Haq Khaliqyar, who was critically injured, and Kandahar Governor General Nurul Haq Ulumi, who he said had been in the forefront of the three-year-old national reconciliation policy.

Dubbing them Soviet "KBG agents," he admitted that the trio had partly succeeded in bribing rebel commanders to score "some negligible success" in reconciliation. But he said the massacre had refuted the regime claims regarding reconciliation and would serve as a good deterrent in the future.

Rebels Launch New Offensive in Khowst District

BK0804133690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1327 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] Islamabad, April 8 (AFP)—Afghan rebels have launched a fresh offensive on the eastern Afghan garrison of Khowst, capturing four posts in the first assault, resistance sources said Sunday [8 April]. The attack was mounted late Saturday and the pro-resistance AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS (AIP) reported that three security posts east of the city fell to the mujahidin guerrillas overnight. Another post to the south of the beleaguered garrison fell early Sunday as battle continued unabetted, it said. Guerrillas, equipped with 122mm and 107mm rockets, in addition to heavy and light artillery, were pounding the town. Khowst has been supplied only by helicopter, as the rebels seige has been underway for the past several months.

AIP said six mujahidin were killed and 35 wounded in one of the heaviest battles to capture Khowst. The agency put the government casualties at 15 dead and "dozens wounded." Mujahidin were already holding Tora Ghar Mountains overlooking Khowst and its airport, which remained under direct rebel attack.

As the fighting entered a "crucial phase," with guerrillas taking positions six kilometers to eight kilometers (three miles to five miles) from the town, Yunis Khalis, interior minister of the resistance government, called upon the besiged Afghan forces to surrender. "All those who surrender to Jalaluddin Haqqani will be amnestied," he said in a message Sunday. Mr. Haqqani is the main rebel commander supervising the resistance operation, only 35 kilometers (22 miles) from Pakistan's northwestern border.

But Mr. Khalis, leader of the fundamentalist Hezb-e Eslami faction, made it clear that the besieged troops surrendering to the rebel Afghan General Shahnawaz Tanay would not be pardoned. "They will be considered communist soldiers," if they join hands with Gen. Tanay, he said, referring to the links Gen. Tanay maintained with Afghan President Najibullah before leading an abortive coup on March 6.

Gen. Tanay, who served as defence minister, belongs to the Khowst suburb of Tani and sources said he enjoyed considerable influence among troops belonging to the Afghan Communist Party's Khalq faction. Gen. Tanay said after the attempted coup that he cooperated with a rival Hezb-e Eslami faction led by Golbuddin Hekmatyar, but some groups were sceptical because of Gen. Tanay's past links with the regime.

Zahir Shah Denounces Regime's 'Illegality'

WA0904153690 Rome IL TEMPO in Italian 18 Mar 90 p 11

[Text] Rome—Former Afghan King Muhammad Zahir Shah said he is convinced that the coup d'etat that took place last week in Kabul is a consequence of the illegality of the Najibullah regime and warned that peace will not be possible in the country so long as the communists remain in power. Ten days after the failed "putsch" plotted by ex-Defense Minister Shahnawaz Tanay, the deposed monarch spoke for the first time about the bloody revolt and expressed the hope that after eleven years of civil war, the freedom "which has never been craved so much as today," will be returned to his people.

Muhammad Zahir Shah said he has no designs on the crown he lost in 1973 when his cousin Da'ud dethroned him in a "coup" which took place while he was in Italy. Zahir Shah has been living in Rome since his ouster. Since his expulsion from the palace in Kabul, he has been living in a simple but spacious villa surrounded by green lawns, located between the Via Flaminia and the Via Cassia. "I am extremely grateful to the Italian Government," he said, "for the understanding and interest it has always shown towards Afghanistan."

In spite of the fact he keeps in constant touch with his country and with the Islamic resistance forces, Zahir Shah has been unable to get a precise picture of last week's confused events. He has no detailed information about ex-Defense Minister Tanay and his allies. "However", he declared, "I can say the armed conflict that exploded among the various factions of the communist regime shows how utterly illegitimate this regime is." Three days ago, Tanay explained that ousting Najibullah would end the civil war and would permit elections to be held within six months. Zahir Shah, also, let it be understood that the removal of the Afghan president is one of the conditions necessary for achieving peace in the country. "But more than a personal matter, this is a regime matter," he affirmed. "An illegitimate communist regime, imposed from the outside, such as the present one, must be replaced by a political arrangement that has the support of the majority of the population."

According to Zahir, the participation of the communists in a large national coalition would be inopportune, even on a temporary basis. The ex-monarch said that on the other hand, the Afghan problem cannot be isolated from its international context. While confessing his disappointment over the lack of results to date from mediations between the United States and the Soviet Union,

Zahir Shah underlined the importance of the role of the two superpowers and of the European Community. "The crisis is now at a critical point, and the international picture is undergoing deep transformation," he declared. "I hope this evolution can also have positive repercussions on Afghanistan, but it is necessary that the resistance achieve major cohesion."

India

'Subversives' Kidnap Professor, Factory Manager

BK0604163690 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] In Srinagar, the vice chancellor of Kashmir University, Professor Mushirul Haq, is reported to have been kidnapped by subversives. The incident occurred while he was going to offer Friday prayers in a mosque near the Lal Bazar area. The militants also kidnapped the general manager of the HMT [Hindustan Machine Tools] factory, Mr. H.L. Khera, from the Chatabal area while he along with his personal security guard were going to the factory in a car. The guard who was later released near Batamaloo area reported the kidnapping at the police station. No clue has yet been found about the identity of the kidnappers or their motives.

In another incident, militants killed a person in Vicharnag locality this morning by calling him out from his residence. Raj Bhavan [Governor House] sources in Jammu say efforts are on to secure the release of kidnapped persons from the Srinagar valley. Meanwhile, 52 militant persons have been arrested from different parts of the Kashmir valley since last night under the drive launched against the subversives. So far, 105 militants have been arrested during the last seven days.

Threaten To Kill Hostages

BK0904075190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, all efforts are on to secure the release of the kidnapped Kashmir University vice chancellor, Professor Mushirul Haq; his personal secretary, Mr. Abdul Ghani; and the HMT [Hindustan Machine Tools] factory general manager, Mr. H.L. Khera. The senior officers have been holding talks with some persons in the hope of getting any clue of the identity and the whereabouts of the kidnappers. Indefinite curfew continues in Srinagar and some other towns since Friday afternoon [6 April], and the security forces have been carrying on intensive search.

According to a report in the local newspapers in Jammu and Kashmir, the kidnappers have threatened to kill their hostages if three arrested subversives are not released by 1500 this afternoon. The union minister in charge of Kashmir affairs, Mr. George Fernandes, is camping in Srinagar to help in the efforts for safe release of the kidnapped persons.

Soviet Official Says Kashmir 'Internal Problem'

BK0604161490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] The Soviet Union has categorically stated that the Kashmir issue cannot be internationalized as it is an internal problem of India. In a television interview in New Delhi today, the chairman of the USSR's Supreme Soviet, Mr. A.I. Lukyanov, said the Kashmir issue should be dealt with only through political means. He said the Simla Agreement provides a very solid legal basis for disposition. Mr. Lukyanov said that the Soviet Union has taken a firm position in this regard and will continue to do so in future. Mr. Lukyanov, who left for home today, had wide-ranging talks in New Delhi with Indian leaders, including the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh.

BJP Warns Against Inaction on Kashmir

BK0604161290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] president, Mr. L.K. Advani, has warned the government that the politics of consensus cannot be an excuse for inaction in any part of the country, including Kashmir. He, however, appreciated the National Front government's approach of consulting not only its allies like the BJP and the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], but also the Congress-I on important matters. Mr. Advani was addressing the opening session of the three-day national executive of the party in Calcutta today. The executive meeting which began today will discuss the political and economic situation in the country and the issues of Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, and Assam.

Briefing newsmen, the party's general secretary, Mr. Kedarnath Sahni, said the National Front government is taking the initiative to solve the Kashmir issue and is moving in the right direction. He said the policy of drift followed by the earlier government has been arrested. Mr. Sahni who submitted a report on Jammu and Kashmir to the meeting has suggested the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution [granting special status to the state of Jammu and Kashmir] and assertion of authority by the state and central government in the Kashmir valley. Earlier in the morning, the BJP president garlanded the statue of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee at Calcutta maidan [grounds] to mark the inauguration of the National executive committee meeting.

BJP Meeting Adopts Resolution on Kashmir

BK0704162390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] The Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] has asked the National Front government to consider blocking the transit routes of subversives from Pakistan if it continues to train them for engineering violence in Jammu and Kashmir. The national executive of the party which is

now meeting in Calcutta adopted a resolution on Kashmir today. After this, the party's general secretary, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, reiterated his party's demand for abrogating Article 370 of the Constitution. He said widening the scope of the article will harm the unity and integrity of the country.

The BJP president, Mr. L.K. Advani, has said that despite difference of opinion on some national issues, his party will continue to support the National Front government. He was addressing a public meeting at the Brigade Parade Ground in Calcutta this afternoon. Describing the Kashmir situation as grim, Mr. Advani said his party will not budge from its demand for the abrogation of Article 370. Veteran BJP leader Mr. A.B. Vajpayee, who also addressed the meeting, held the Congress-I and National Conference responsible for the present situation in Kashmir. He cautioned that if Pakistan wants to change the geographical integrity of India, it will receive a befitting reply.

Indefinite Curfew Set in Srinagar, Other Towns

BK0704160890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, indefinite curfew has been imposed in Srinagar and some other towns. Security forces are continuing their search for the kidnapped Kashmir University vice chancellor, Professor Mushirul Haq, and his private secretary, Mr. Abdul Ghani, and the Srinagar HMT [Hindustan Machine Tools] factory general manager, Mr. H.L. Khera. They were kidnapped by militants in Srinagar yesterday. The kidnappings were officially confirmed today.

The state governor, Mr. Jag Mohan, in a meeting in Srinagar today reviewed the effort being made by the security forces to bring about their safe release.

Meanwhile, the security forces arrested five militants from near the Line of Control last night. They were trying to cross over to the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir for arms training.

BJP Urges 'Hot Pursuit' Into Azad Kashmir

BK0804061690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0609 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] New Delhi, April 8 (AFP)—India's main right-wing party has urged the government to send soldiers to Pakistan-controlled Kashmir in "hot pursuit" of Moslem militants fighting for secession in the Indian part of the disputed territory.

The demand was voiced in a resolution on Kashmir adopted by the influential Indian People's Party (BJP) at a meeting of its executive in Calcutta on Saturday [7 April], press reports said Sunday.

The resolution by the Hindu-revivalist party said India should send troops to the Pakistan-held part of Kashmir, known as Azad (Free) Kashmir, to "knock out the training camps and transit routes of terrorists who are threatening to take Kashmir out of the Indian union."

India has accused Pakistan of fuelling the Moslem secessionist campaign in Kashmir by training and arming Moslem militants. Islamabad denies the charges, but has come out in support of self-determination for the people of Kashmir.

The territory's ownership has been a subject of dispute and the cause of two wars between the two countries since independence from British rule in 1947.

The BJP resolution justified the "hot pursuit" demand, saying: "Pakistan's many provocations amount to so many acts of war against India on Indian territory—in places and timings of its choosing."

"Hot pursuit is a recognised defensive measure," THE TIMES OF INDIA quoted the resolution as adding.

Senior BJP leader Atal Behari Vajpayee, a former foreign minister, told the party's gathering in Calcutta that Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh's National Front government should adopt firmer policies on Kashmir.

"We will force them to do so," he said.

The BJP, whose influence in India has been growing on the strength of its blatantly Hindu platform, is an ally of the centrist National Front, which came to power through November's general elections.

Mr. Vajpayee said his party would oppose any move to release jailed Moslem militants in Kashmir to secure the release of kidnapped hostages, including an academic and a business executive.

The militants abducted Kashmir University vice-chancellor Mashirul Haq, one of his aides and Hindustan Machine Tools general manager H.L. Khera in Srinagar on Friday and demanded the release of three prisoners by Monday.

Mr. Vajpayee said bowing to the demands would be a sign of weakness, recalling the release in December of five militants in a ransom swap for the kidnapped daughter of Federal Home Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed.

"The same mistake should not be repeated," the veteran politician added.

A demand for a tougher stand against Pakistan on Kashmir was also voiced Saturday by former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) party at a meeting of its policy-making working committee here.

The committee viewed a video clip showing Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto calling for freedom for Indian Kashmir, then heard Mr. Gandhi launch a tirade against Pakistan.

He said when he was in power the Pakistan Government did not have the "guts to talk like the way Mrs. Benazir Bhutto is doing now" and accused his successor of vacillating in dealing with the Kashmir problem.

Violence linked to the Moslem secessionist campaign in Kashmir, which observers say has turned into a mass anti-Indian upsurge, has left almost 400 people dead so far this year.

Janata Dal Blames Congress-I on Kashmir Problem

BK0804145490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] The Congress-I has said that the government of India is not reacting strongly to the provocative statements made by the prime minister of Pakistan, who, the party said, has flouted the spirit of the Simla Agreement. Speaking to newsmen in New Delhi today, a party spokesman expressed concern over the situation in the Kashmir Valley and said that it is deteriorating day by day.

The Janata Dal general secretary, Mr. Jaipal Reddy, criticized Congress-I President Mr. Rajiv Gandhi for his statement on the Kashmir situation. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today, Mr. Reddy held Mr. Gandhi responsible for the current situation in the state. He alleged that it was the shortsighted politics of the Congress-I that led to the present situation. The National Front government took a sharp notice of the situation and the diplomatic success so far is to the credit of the present government.

4 Kashmiri Militants Arrested, 1 Believed Dead

BK0804155690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] A report from Srinagar says that the top four subversives of the so-called JKLF [Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front] were apprehended by the security forces during an armed encounter today. An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that another top militant was injured and is believed killed. The operation to flush out the subversives was launched in Srinagar this afternoon when the security forces surrounded the house in which the subversives were hiding.

In the meantime, all-out efforts are on to secure the safe release of the kidnapped Kashmir University vice chancellor, Professor Mushirul Haq, his personal secretary, Mr. Abdul Ghani, and the HMT [Hindustan Machine Tools] factory general manager, Mr. H.L. Khera. They were kidnapped by subversives at gunpoint in Srinagar on Friday [6 April] in two separate incidents and nothing so far is known of their whereabouts. The union railway minister, Mr. George Fernandes, who is also the minister in charge for Kashmir affairs, is camping in Srinagar since yesterday to help in the efforts. The security forces have launched a massive search for the kidnappers.

Meanwhile, indefinite curfew continues in Srinagar and some other towns in the Kashmir Valley since Friday afternoon.

Another Curfew Imposed in Ahmedabad Town

BK0704132690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] In Gujarat, indefinite curfew has been imposed in Mirzapur area of Ahmedabad, following continued violence. One person was stabbed to death this morning and mobs set on fire at least 12 shops in different areas of the city.

Meanwhile, indefinite curfew is still on Gomtipur area without any relaxation. In Kalupur area, curfew was lifted today, following improvement in the situation.

Premier Asks Punjab To Control Terrorism

BK0704151590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] The prime minister has directed the Punjab administration to sternly check the terrorist activities in the state and the very form in the maintenance of law and order. Addressing a high-level meeting held in New Delhi last night to assess the situation in Punjab, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh assured all possible assistance required by the state government in this regard. Besides the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, and the home minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, those who attended the meeting included the Punjab governor, the union cabinet secretary, the home secretary, Punjab chief secretary, and the director general of police.

The Punjab government representative expressed the view that the latest spurt in violence is a result of the directions to the terrorists from across the border. The prime minister said the government is keen to involve the people in restoring the democratic process in the state. It also desires that the assembly elections should be held within six months. The Constitution amendment bill, now before Parliament, seeking extension of president's rule in the state is a step in the direction of creating a congenial atmosphere for assembly polls. Mr. V.P. Singh said that the center has fulfilled whatever assurances it has given, like increase in the pension of widows, establishment of special courts to file the cases of 1984 riots, and release of deserters.

In a separate meeting, the home minister reviewed the steps to strengthen the law and order machinery in Punjab. An official spokesman said later that police reinforcements along with more modern equipment are being sent to the state.

Curfew in Gujarat As Death Toll Mounts to 39

BK0804083990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] Indefinite curfew has been imposed in the walled areas of Ahmedabad City following violent incidents.

With four more persons succumbing to injuries yesterday, the death toll in the last five days of disturbances has gone up to 31. Additional CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] companies have been deployed in sensitive areas of the city. The Army will stage a flag past the sensitive areas today to create a sense of security among the people.

In Vadodara, the situation continues to be tense but under control. The indefinite curfew remains in force in all the areas under the three police stations of Vadi City and Panigate. The death toll in the city during the last two days of violence has risen to eight.

'Dreaded Terrorist' Killed in Punjab 8 April

BK0804074890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] In Punjab, a dreaded terrorist, Jagraj Singh, popularly known as Toofan Singh—a self-styled lieutenant general in the so-called terrorist outfit Khalistan LIberation Force—was killed along with another accomplice in an encounter in Srihargobindpur of Gurdaspur District early this morning. The state police chief, Mr. K.P.S. Gill, told All India Radio correspondent that Toofan Singh was responsible for over 150 killings. His accomplice has been identified as a hard-core terrorist, Bakhshish Singh.

Singh Condemns Gujarat Violence, Urges Calm

BK0804145890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, has called upon the people of Gujarat to remain calm and not to give credence to rumors. Condemning the violence that has taken place in various parts of Gujarat, the prime minister urged the people to control their passion and live up to the ideals of the father of the nation. In a statement issued in New Delhi today, Mr. V.P. Singh said that the very fabric of our nation is under attack both from inside and outside the nation and the government is committed not to allow it to be endangered at any cost.

The situation in the curfew-bound Ahmedabad city is under control barring a few incidents of stabbing and arson. According to the city police control, one person was killed in the incidents of stabbing today. Meanwhile, an indefinite curfew is in force in the entire walled city area of Ahmedabad, except the areas under Astodia police station. The curfew is also in force in Bapunagar, Gomatipur, and Madhavpura areas of the city.

V.P. Singh Orders Inquiry Into Phone Tapping

BK0604130490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, has ordered a CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] inquiry into the allegations of tapping of telephones of political leaders. Announcing this in the Lok Sabha today, the parliamentary affairs minister, Mr. P. Upendra, denied categorically that telephone calls of the senior Janata Dal leader, Mr. Chandrashekhar, or any other politician are being intercepted. He said the houses of Mr. Chandrashekhar or any other political leader are not being bugged. Mr. Upendra's statement came when the house reassembled at 1500 today after the speaker, Mr. Rabi Ray, had adjourned it soon after the question hour following noisy scenes. The Congress-I members raised the issue of the allegations reportedly leveled by Mr. Chandrashekhar, which appeared in a section of the press.

Mr. Upendra, however, said that under certain circumstances, the director of the Intelligence Bureau has been authorized to intercept telephonic conversations, but added that there are a number of safeguards against misuse of these powers.

Forces Said Ready To Meet Foreign Aggression

BK0804160190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] The minister of state for defense, Dr. Raja Ramanna, has said that the Armed Forces are fully equipped to meet any challenge or threat of foreign aggression. Speaking at an ex-servicemen rally at Faridkot today, he said India is a peace-loving country, but if forced, it would sacrifice everything to defend the motherland. Dr. Raja Ramanna lauded that role of the soldiers who are maintaining a constant vigil on the borders of the country. He said India has the fourth biggest defense force in the world with the latest weaponry and the armory.

Congress-I on 'Tough Stand' Against Pakistan

BK0804085490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] The Congress-I has called upon the National Front government to take a tough stand against Pakistan which is trying to interfere in the internal affairs of the country. Addressing the concluding session of the two-day meeting of the extended Congress Working Committee in New Delhi yesterday evening, the party president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, said that Kashmir is an integral part of India and we must do everything to maintain the unity and integrity of the country. He referred to the recent statements of the Pakistan prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, and said it has been made clear that these are not within the spirit of the Simla Agreement.

The meeting adopted a statement highlighting the challenges to the unity of the country. The statement stresses that the political process must be restored forthwith to harness the patriotism of the Kashmiris and at the same time to eliminate the antinational forces that are holding the nation to ransom.

Mr. Gandhi announced that organizational elections at all levels will be completed by November-December this year.

BJP Demands 'Security Belt' on Pakistan Border

BK0804161890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] The national executive of the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] has welcomed the shift in approach of this year's budget proposals presented to Parliament last month. Briefing newsmen in Calcutta after the executive adopted a resolution on the post-budget scenario, the BJP leader, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, pointed out that the National Front government has increased the allocation for the rural sector and abolished the gold control order. However, the party demanded withdrawal of increase in prices of petrol, diesel, postal, and telecommunication charges, and asked the government to increase the income tax exemption limit to 30,000 rupees.

In a resolution on Punjab, the BJP demanded sealing of the international border with Pakistan by creating a security belt to stop inflow of arms, ammunition, and trained terrorists from across the border.

Cuban Foreign Minister Malmierca Arrives

BK0804092590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] The Cuban foreign minister, Mr. Isidoro Malmierca, arrived in New Delhi this morning on a three-day visit to the country. He will have talks with the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, today. The Cuban minister will attend the first meeting of the India-Cuban Joint Commission to be held in the capital tomorrow.

Gujral Hosts Dinner

BK0904044190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] India has asserted that it cannot permit any distortions in the definition of human rights to become an excuse to interfere in the internal affairs of any country. Speaking at a dinner hosted in honor of the visiting Cuban foreign minister, Mr. Isidoro Malmierca, in New Delhi yesterday, the external affairs minister, Mr. Gujral, said it would be a sad day if religious fundamentalism and narrow ethnic ambitions are allowed to challenge the sovereignty and integrity of states.

The Cuban foreign minister had a meeting with Mr. Gujral shortly after arrival in New Delhi earlier in the day. Formal talks between the two countries will begin today. Four agreements relating to exchanges in fields of culture and sports and cooperation in science and technology are expected to be signed. Mr. Malmierca is also expected to call on the prime minister, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, today.

Janata Dal, Congress-I Condemn Nepal Repression

BK0804160690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] The Janata Dal general secretary, Mr. Jaipal Reddy, has said that his party sympathizes with the democratic aspirations of the people of Nepal. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today, he said that his party is unhappy at the repressive measures adopted by the Nepalese Government to curb the people's aspirations.

The Congress-I has condemned what it called the massacre of the supporters of true democracy by the authorities in Nepal. A spokesman of the party told newsmen in New Delhi today that the Nepal Government must recognize that the movement for multiparty system has the support of all sections of the people.

Deputy Prime Minister Resigns From Party Post

BK0804150890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] The deputy prime minister, Mr. Devi Lal, has tendered his resignation from the post of chairman of the Janata Dal parliamentary board. Disclosing this, the party spokesman, Mr. Jaipal Reddy, told newsmen in New Delhi today that Mr. Devi Lal has written a letter to the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, saying that he would like to quit the post of the chairman of the board in keeping with the principle of one man, one post.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Conducts Friday Prayers

LD0604131590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] Our Muslim compatriots all over the country celebrated the political-religious Friday prayers today, the second Friday of the month of Ramadan. The fasting residents of Tehran today, too, were present at Tehran University and the adjacent streets to hold the Friday prayers, which Hojjat-ol Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani led.

Referring to the problem of illiteracy in the world, which afflicts 1.1 billion of the world's population, Hojjat-ol Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani said in the Friday prayer sermons: the world cultural and scientific centers, including UNESCO and UNICEF, have designated the current decade as the decade for the campaign against illiteracy. The Islamic Republic of Iran has decided to support that movement.

The president of the Republic said that at the beginning of the victory of the Islamic Revolution, 42.7 percent of the country's population were literate, while 52.8 percent were illiterate. [figures as heard]. He then said: Vast efforts were made to campaign against illiteracy with the establishment of the Literacy Movement. At present

67.7 percent of our people are literate, while 32.3 percent are illiterate. While the increase in the ratio of literacy by more than 20 percent is heartening, the fact 32.3 percent are illiterate in the country is an ugly blot on our Islamic society. We must embark on a serious movement side by side with the Literacy Movement. To that end the Council for the Campaign Against Illiteracy has decided to assign all the school buildings throughout the country, as well as the prayer houses, mosques, public centers, and all other resources of the Ministry of Education, this summer to implementation of a crash literacy project. Implemention of the said project requires a credit allocation of 25 billion rials. With the approval of the leader it is intended to raise the said amount from sources other than the approved budget. In any case, the government has considered the budget for the said project. The required foreign currency to print books and acquire stationary has been allocated. It is intended to deploy students, teachers and educational staff.

Illiterate people in the age group of 10 to 35, comprising between 3 to 5 million throughout the country, can be covered by the crash literacy project. We expect the press and the Voice and Vision to launch a propaganda and guidance campaign so we can teach reading and writing to a large part of the illiterates by the end of the current year. If the illiterates fail to be present at the literacy classes, we will force them to be present in the classrooms through coercion.

Referring to his recent visit to deprived regions of the country, especially the Dashtyari and Bashagard region, the president of the Republic explained the vast potential resources of these regions which can be mobilized for major agricultural and industrial activities. He also referred to the gap between the living standard of the deprived regions with the people of urban areas. He then stressed: Capital resources must be taken to such regions. These are the regions which must be developed. No matter how much the level of their salaries, we must send the engineers and technicians to these regions. These are the efforts which must be made to utilize these natural resources and God-given blessings; and to put an end to poverty and deprivation. To that end, funds, although not enough, have been allocated in the budget to develop deprived areas of the country; we must allocate larger sums for that purpose.

The president of the Republic, in another part of his sermons, termed the issue of the immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel as one of the most serious calamities of the century. He said: Unfortunately, under the cover of engineered events, they are trying to downplay the significance of this dangerous event and this major calamity. He said at present 2.5 million Jews live in the Soviet Union, and they want to transfer them to Israel. He then said: Occupied Palestine suffers from problems with the existing population; they are evicting the Muslim people of Palestine from the occupied territories. The Arab countries are insincere in their talk about the Zionist regime's move to transfer the immigrant Jews to Israel, as they see how immigrant Jews arrived in Israel via Cairo. If the Arab countries are fighting against that plot, why then do they allow the Egyptian regime to indulge in such an act of treason? In reality, that way they are committing acts of treason against the victimized nations of the world of Islam; they do not use the levers in their hands against the usurper Israel regime.

In the second prayer sermon, Hojjat-ol Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi- Rafsanjani, on the occasion of World Health Day, called on the people to observe the health of the environment. Also on the occasion of the anniversary of the martyrdom of Ayatollah Seyyed Mohammad Baqer Sadr and his learned sister Bint ol-Hoda, at the end of his sermon he praised their valuable services to Islam and Muslims.

Addresses Jewish Emigration

LD0604204990 Tehran Domstic Service in Persian 1224 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Second sermon by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani at the Friday prayers in Tehran on 6 April—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] There are three or four relatively important issues which are topical this week. I will briefly talk about each of them. Some are domestic issues, and one is international and regional.

The first topic is about the WHO Day. You have heard various things about it during the week. On this holy rostrum I state that special importance must be atached to the matter of health and hygiene. [passage omitted]

The second matter I want to talk about, and to which we attach a great deal of importance, is the fight against illiteracy and continuing the Literacy Movement in our country. [passage omitted]

The next topic is by way of a brief report on our trip to a number of deprived areas early this year. Although I have said this in my interviews, I want to make some new points in the Friday Prayers sermons. I hope it will be effective in the country's reconstruction and improve the conditions in our society. The people's living conditions are, unfortunately, not very good in many respects. [passage omitted]

Another issue, an international one, is the Jews' emigration from the USSR to Israel. Of course, I referred to it at length in my Arabic sermon. I will, however, say a few words about it now. This is one of the most significant calamities of our century. Unfortunately they are trying to play down this dangerous incident, this great calamity, through the events they have manufactured elsewhere in the world. As the Soviets recently announced, there are 2.5 million Jews in the Soviet Union, many of whom want to emigrate. Now the way is clear for them to go to Israel. This is a policy adopted by the arrogant world against the world of Islam. The East and the West have joined forces, and this accursed incident is about to happen.

Today the Jewish, Zionist Government of Israel announced 8,500 people had immigrated last month. It only is the beginning; they have difficulties, there is hostility toward them, and they are immigrating at such great speed. Just imagine it. There already is a shortage of space in occupied Palestine; there are problems for the existing population, and they are now deporting the Palestinians who have stayed under various pretexts, and making them homeless.

The world is tolerating and encouraging this cursed policy. The Arab countries are making a few hypocritical noises, but not really saying anything. Yesterday the Israelis themselves announced that some of the immigrants had come by way of Egypt. That means they obtained visas for Egypt in the Soviet Union, went to Cairo, and traveled from there to Tel Aviv. If the Arabs are supposed to oppose this, how could the Cairo government allow them to pass through there? It obviously is a lie. It is the best proof they are being dishonest and deceiving people.

I am just guessing here, I am not sure, but it could be that all the clashes and the hue and cry raised between Iraq, Israel, the U.S., Britain and their likes in the world, and inside Israel when the Labor and Likud parties fight each other in the parliament, are all for show to distract public opinion away from the tragedy they are perpetrating. If so many Zionists are to gather from all over the world, how could Israel make peace or hold talks? To hold talks means to discuss the return of those lands. Returning the occupied land is not consistent with inviting Soviet Jews. If the talks are to bear results, some of the Jews in the occupied lands should retreat. You should at least accept that if you want to return the lands occupied in 1967, you should evacuate the people you have housed there. That you are hurriedly amassing Zionists there from all over the world shows you are lying.

I do not know why the Arabs do not understand this, and are just keeping themselves busy with other things and are not using the important levers at their disposal. God curse those who are committing treason against that oppressed nation and that holy Islamic place for the sake of keeping their thrones and seats of power. [crowd chants]

Arabic Friday Sermon Reported

NC0604185790 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1123 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Arabic Friday sermon delivered by Hojjat-ol Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Tehran—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful; praise be to God and peace be upon God's messenger, his kinfolk, and the pious worshippers, and peace be upon the faithful believers who observe the fasting.

The continued immigration of Zionists from the Soviet Union into occupied Palestine is cause for serious concern, first because of the abominable nature of the basis of this action, in which the rights of millions of displaced and deported Palestinians are ignored and their lands are put at the disposal of people who have no rights to these lands, except for their links with Zionism and the Zionist gangs. At present, the worst acts of racial discrimination are being committed with the cooperation of the superpowers. If there are truly places in Palestine to accommodate more people, then why are the owners of this land being denied the right to own their legitimate territory, and why are the Palestinians residing on these lands being displaced under various feeble pretexts and grounds?

Second: Such moves prove usurper Israel continues to pursue its expansionist policy and the ill-famed idea of Greater Israel, that it still seeks to implement the infamous slogan from the Euphrates to the Nile, and that (?retreat) from the occupied territories does not cross its mind. It therefore is self-evident all the Zionists and their protectors' actions aim to show their peaceful image, and that their quest for peace in the region is just a (?cover) to deceive Muslims and Arabs. The Israeli parties' maneuvers over the cause of peace fall within this context.

Third: Since the Arab world and the Islamic countries in the world are not giving the appropriate consideration to this serious issue, they are not using their available means of deterrence. The leaders of the Palestinian issue themselves still are committed to the [word indistinct]. Here, we draw your attention to an important observation, namely, that if the protectors of Israel, particularly America, were sincere in their statements, they would have prevented the Jews' illegitimate emigration, but instead they further complicate a solution to this issue. It would not be unlikey if we consider the verbal disputes between Israel and America on the one hand and the Iraqi Ba'th and Israeli disputes on the other hand to be no more than a scenario of the heedlessness of the Muslims and the Arabs.

He is God, the one and only; God, the eternal, absolute; He begetteth not, nor is He begotten; and there is none like unto Him. [Koranic Verse]

May peace and God's mercy be upon you.

Majles Speaker Assails U.S., Israel in Session

LD0804112490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Excerpt] The first Majles open session in the year 1369 [year beginning 21 March 1990] was conducted this morning, chaired by Mr. Karrubi.

Mr. Karrubi in the session referred to the anniversary of the severence of ties between Iran and the United States and spoke on U.S. influence in Iran during the previous regime. He said: For many years the Iranian nation was

tortured by the shah's regime under U.S. orders, and the people's rights were overlooked. But thanks to the people's struggles, U.S. influence over Iran was cut off. Nevertheless, U.S. conspiracies and mudslinging against Iran have not stopped; there are various conspiracies against Iran in progress.

Referring to the crimes committed against the nations of the region by the regime occupying Jerusalem, under U.S. auspices, he said: Continuing its crimes against oppressed nations in the region, the Zionist regime has gone so far as to house more Zionist Jews in the occupied lands, and transferred its capital to Jerusalem.

He called reactionary Arab regimes' compromise with the Zionist regime shameful and degrading. He added: Had regional reactionary Arab regimes not kept silent about the Zionists' crimes, America and Israel would not have been able to commit these crimes.

He then referred to the Iranian nation's resistance to the United States, and Imam Khomeyni's strict instruction calling relations between Iran and the United States oppressed-oppressor relations. He expressed the hope this spirit of resistance and steadfastness will be preserved forever. [passage omitted]

Our correspondent reports on rectifications during today's Majles open session:

[Correspondent] The law on punishment of saboteurs of the country's economic system was tabled with single urgency, and its urgency was approved by the deputies. [passage omitted]

Yazdi Comments on Immigration, Peace Talks

LD0804205290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Yazdi, head of the judiciary, during a consultative session of the high-ranking officials of the judiciary this morning, asked all the judges in the country to write their views on the problems they encounter so the Proposal and Planning Commission can discuss them and find a solution to the existing difficulties and shortcomings. [passage omitted]

Referring to the approaching occasion of International Jerusalem Day and the recent U.S. decision to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of the regime occupying Jerusalem, Yazdi said: In our opinion the recent decision of the U.S. Congess can be a motive to undermine the struggle of the Palestinian Muslims and Muslims of the world; and God willing, the Muslims, through their glorious demonstrations on Jerusalem Day, will show their anger and hatred against the United States and global Zionism.

Referring to the immigration of Jews from the Soviet Union to the occupied territories, he said: Apparently this immigration is taking place via Egypt; and no doubt the Muslims shall not remain silent in the face of this conspiracy, and the Palestinian combatants should not surrender to these immigrations either and should show a greater degree of resistance.

Referring to the Islamic Republic of Iran's stance on the UN secretary general's plan, Yazdi said: We do not know how successful Perez de Cuellar will be in his new mission; at any rate it is up to the Security Council to take steps toward implementing Resolution No. 598 before the end of the peace-keeping forces' mission. He added: Unrelated issues should not be raised in the talks, and only ways of implementing the resolution, article-by-article, should be discussed.

Opposition Group Warns of 'New Revolution'

NC0504104490 Paris AFP in English 1007 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 5 (AFP)—An Iranian opposition group Thursday warned that Iran would face another revolution if the government failed to put an end to "repression and abuse of power."

"Signs of new upheavals can be seen in the deep anger felt by the people and even some members of the regime," said the Association for the Defense of the Liberty and Sovereignty of the Iranian people in a statement.

The group, tolerated but officially unauthorised, accused the government of contributing to the unrest by its failure to carry out the promises of the 1979 Islamic revolution that toppled the shah of Iran.

"Eleven years after the victory of the revolution, no one has the courage to admit having made mistakes.

"The people failed to obtain peace, justice, prosperity and liberty. Instead it has had to face inflation, corruption, repression and abuse of power," the statement said.

"The Islamic leadership is laying the foundations for new upheavals and a new revolution," it said.

"The way to avoid new upheavals is to reject methods of repression," the group added, saying that it "was again warning the government against any abuse of power and urging it to respect the fundamental rights of the people."

The association was set up in 1986 by several liberal figures, including former prime minister Mehdi Bazargan and ex-foreign minister Ebrahim Yazdi.

Its central committee is headed by 'Ali Ardalan, who also belonged to the Bazargan administration set up after the 1979 revolution.

Government Devaluing Rial by '90 Percent'

LD0604130790 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0748 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Ecopool items]

[Text] Nicosia, April 6 (TAP)—Iran plans to devalue the rial, the Iranian national currency, to between 700 and 800 per dollar, compared with the present level of 70 rials per dollar, Chairman of the Majlis (Parliament) Plan and Budget Commission, Morteza Alviri, announced on Thursday.

Alviri said that the government would in the months to come reveal a programme for implementing the new exchange rate and bringing order to the exchange market.

The government wishes to limit imports and step up exports in order to be able to establish the new rate of exchange. In the last two months the dollar has been fetching 1,300 rials on the black market.

An adjustment to the rate of 700 rials per dollar would represent a 90 percent devaluation according to International Monetary Fund calculation methods.

Saddam 'Ordered' Chemical Attacks on Deserters

NC0804184890 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] [Iraqi President] Saddam [Husayn] recently ordered chemical weapons be used to kill hundreds of soldiers who had deserted the Army during the eight-year war between Iraq and Iran. The deserters hid in the al-Ahwar area close to the Persian Gulf.

AFP said after the search operations carried out by the Army failed to find the deserters, Saddam ordered the entire area be bombarded with chemical bombs.

Daily Comments on Need To Attack Israel

LD0704125590 Tehran IRNA in English 0950 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 7, IRNA—A Persian-language daily in an editorial Saturday said that the only way to the annihilation of the Zionist regime and liberation of the occupied lands is to support the Palestinian struggle.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAM said that the overwhelming majority of the Arab states, mainly the Baghdad regime, are reluctant to attack Israel because in practice they favor a policy of compromise with the Zionists.

No doubt, the daily added, only through unceasing struggles of Muslim Palestinians and support of the whole Islamic world, the source of corruption (the Zionist regime) would be rooted out in the region.

However, as the Zionists are broadening the scope of their "policy of usurpation" by paving the way for execution of an internationally-hatched plot on influx of the Soviet Jews to the occupied Palestine, Muslim Palestinians are getting ready for a heavy fighting, wrote the daily.

This is the time when the world Muslims who shoulder a graver responsibility towards this shackled nation, in this Muslim holy month of Ramadan which is the month of Palestine and Jerusalem, should come up with a unified action to support the Palestinians, it added.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAM stressed that the world hegemony would not miss any opportunity to remove Palestine and if the world Muslims fails to find a solution, the Zionists will expel all Palestinian Muslims from their homeland and there would remain no trace of Palestine other than its name in history.

The daily concluded by saying that the holy month of Ramadan provides a good opportunity, especially on the International Jerusalem Day (the last Friday of the holy month), for an all-out struggle to wipe out the Zionist usurpers and the "cancerous tumor"—Israel.

Paper Urges Upholding Revolutionary Values

LD0804154190 Tehran IRNA in English 1255 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 8, IRNA—The power of the Islamic Revolution stems from its lofty principles, and will continue to exist as long as the nation remains loyal to these values, said a Persian daily today.

"In other words", added JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, our revolution would be in danger when these principles and values are tarnished."

Serious attitude towards the obvious needs of the revolutionary society is a must, particularly at the current juncture, "but it is not clear why officials do not take resolute measures in this regard," questioned the daily.

It called on revolutionary forces no matter in what bastion they man, to understand that "guarding of Islamic and revolutionary values is our fundamental aim", and any more which tends to harm these values ought to be severely confronted.

"Of course this does not necesarily mean wrathful confrontation, but sometimes it may also include such measures. We have learned over the past 11 years that safeguarding our values is among the most basic, rather fundamental principles for continuing the revolution," said the daily.

It noted that the major part of the society is aware of these values, and the rest gradually fall in line with these principles if these are to become regulations.

However, said the daily, there are people who try to confront the principles of the revolution even if they are canonized.

"The wicked nature of this group prevents them from adapting to these principles, and they make up for their inferiority by trying to mock at the time-tested values accepted by the society," it added. Timely advice in this regard may be effective to some extent, thought JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, "However, the health of the society cannot be put at stake by merely advising them."

It cautioned that the revolution also needs "preventative and disciplinary" methods in order to punish the corrupt elements who do not want to act humanely under any circumstances.

"Today the nation expects the officials to be resolute, and has practically supported any measure in this regard, thereby encouraging them to take further decisive measures," concluded the daily.

Armed Forces Confiscate Insurgents' Weapons

LD0804024690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] In a series of successful operations aimed at crushing armed insurgents and narcotics smugglers, the gendarmerie armed forces of Sistan va Baluchestan Province succeeded in uncovering and confiscating a large quantity of weapons and ammunitions, culminating in the arrest or killing more than 12 of the insurgents responsible for creating insecurity in the region.

Brigadier-General Sohrabi, commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Gendarmerie, who has come to Zahedan to inspect the region and meet the gendarmerie personnel of Sistan va Baluchestan District, announced the above piece of news in an interview with the Central News Unit correspondent this morning. He said:

In the course of these operations, which were carried out in the past few days under the command of the gendarmerie commander of Sistan va Baluchestan District, thanks to the coordinated activity and presence of the Armed Forces in the region, six various light- and medium-weight weapons, five percussion and anti-personnel [narenjak-e soti va jangi] grenades, more than 5,000 various bullets, eight radios, one ground and aerial camera, 13 vehicles, more than a million tomans in cash, and 18 kg of narcotics and alcoholic beverages were confiscated.

Nepal

Police Fire on Demonstrators, Kill at Least 10

BK0604134290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1334 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 6 (AFP)—Ten people were killed, including three foreigners, when Nepalese riot police opened fire here Friday [6 April] on a huge crowd of demonstrators demanding democratic change, hospital sources said. Witnesses said 160 people were also injured when the police opened fire on a demonstration of 200,000 people outside the royal palace. Doctors at the government-run Bir Hospital were operating nonstop on the wounded, the sources said.

Other reports reaching here from outside districts said more than 10 protestors had already died from bullet wounds.

The three foreigners killed in the capital shooting were identified by hospital sources as Richard William and Reid Andrew of Britain and Dick Boogaard of the Netherlands. The Dutchman was shot in the back, the sources said.

Police also fired on a group of angry demonstrators who tried to set fire to a government building in the center of Kathmandu. Five people were injured by bullets and rushed to hospital for treatment. The demonstrators converged on the royal palace to press their demands for the end of the country's 30-year-old partyless panchayat system.

Police had earlier used tear gas and baton charges to try and stop the crowd from marching on the palace to denounce King Birendra's decision earlier Friday to dismiss the government for not going far enough towards restoring a multiparty system of government. The royal palace was cordoned off and army troops posted to guard the building while others were advancing towards the area of the clashes.

100 Demonstrators Said Killed

OW0604140190 Tokyo KYODO in English 1335 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 6, KYODO—Some 100 pro-democracy demonstrators are feared to have been killed as they marched toward the Narayanhity Royal Palace, the residence of King Birendra, in Kathmandu, Friday afternoon, eyewitnesses said. Army troops were called out to take control of the situation when the demonstrators forced their way through police barricades, eyewitnesses said.

There was total confusion at hospitals in the capital about the numbers of those killed or injured in the clash.

Police were seen recovering the bodies of the dead and whisking them away in trucks.

In Kathmandu, police opened fire to prevent a crowd of demonstrators from approaching the outer gates of the Narayanhity Royal Palace, the residence of King Birendra.

An estimated 500,000 people joined in processions shouting antigovernment slogans, and young people danced to the tune of "We Want Democracy." Waving black flags as well as those of the banned Nepali Congress and the leftist alliance, the demonstrators filled several streets of the capital city. The demonstrators called for an end to the partyless Panchayat system and for punishment of former Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha who they described as a "murderer."

Meanwhile, the leader of the Nepali Congress, Ganesh Man Singh, dismissed King Birendra's offer of political changes as a mere "empty promise of reforms."

"People want substantial changes. I hope God will grant wisdom to those who are shedding the blood of the

people," he said, in reacting to the king's announcement. Singh, 76, who is considered a symbol of the present pro-democracy movement, said the announcement reflected "conspiratorial moves of the rulers."

For his part, Lokendra Bahadur Chand, who was entrusted by the king earlier Friday to form a new Council of Ministers (cabinet), said he will brook no delay in starting consultations with Nepalese holding different views on political reform.

Pro-democracy demonstrators continued to march through various streets of Katmandu until late Friday evening, while sounds of intermittent gunfire echoed through the capital. At one stage in the evening, a crowd of protesters tried unsuccessfully to set fire to the office buildings of the city council and a government-owned publishing house.

Earlier in the afternoon, several demonstrators were shot as they tried to push their way down an avenue leading to one of the outer gates of the Royal Palace. The Army opened fire at the crowd after it tried to pull down a statue of the late King Mahendra, King Birendra's father, standing in front of the palace, one report said.

According to sources with the banned Nepali Congress Party, the exact number of dead could not be ascertained, though it could run to well over 100.

Army Reportedly Called

BK0604145090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] In Nepal, 22 persons were killed today in police firing and the Army was called out and curfew clamped in Kathmandu town. Police opened fire over demonstrators demanding multiparty system and human rights. Over 100 persons are reported to have been injured. Reports of police firing have also come in from Butwal and Janakpur where four persons are reported killed.

In retaliation, the agitated demonstrators set fire to some vehicles and houses at these places. The demonstrators were demanding withdrawal of the royal proclamation broadcast by Radio Nepal by King Birendra this morning. The proclamation offers a dialogue by the new government with persons of different political ideologies to solve the present crisis.

'Indefinite Curfew' Imposed in Kathmandu, Patan

BK0704023090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0223 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 7 (AFP)—Nepalese authorities imposed an indefinite curfew Saturday [7 April] on the capital Kathmandu and the suburban township of Lalitpur, the Home Ministry announced. The curfew was to be in effect for 22 hours a day, lifted only from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM (1020 to 1220 GMT) each afternoon, said the announcement broadcast by state-run Radio Nepal.

"Those who attempt to defy the curfew order may be shot dead by security forces and those who are arrested would be imprisoned for one month," the official announcement said.

Nepalese Royal Army personnel took up positions throughout Kathmandu and Lalitpur, which is also known as Patan, guarding government offices, bridges and hospitals. Police were seen moving through the city using loudspeakers to warn people not to violate the curfew order.

The curfew was imposed the morning after police opened fire on a crowd of about 200,000 anti-government demonstrators, killing at least 10 and wounding 100, according to hospital sources.

"The curfew was enforced for the security of the life and property of the general public and the public establishment," the announcement said.

Demonstrations Continue

BK0704083090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0805 GMT 7 Apr 90

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[Text] Kathmandu, April 7 (AFP)—New demonstrations were reported in and around Kathmandu Saturday [7 April] morning after the government imposed a curfew on the capital city and nearby Lalitpur following a night of violent anti-government protests. Witnesses and opposition sources said there were fresh outbreaks of shooting within the city and in Lalitpur and Bhaktapur townships, but there was no official confirmation.

One report said more than 15,000 people staged a pro-democracy demonstration Saturday morning in Bhaktapur and shouted slogans protesting the panchayat system under which all political parties are banned.

Early Saturday morning, the Home Ministry announced an indefinite curfew on Kathmandu and Lalitpur for 22 hours a day, lifted only from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. (1020 to 1220 GMT) each afternoon, according to a Radio Nepal broadcast.

"Those who attempt to defy the curfew order may be shot dead by security forces and those who are arrested would be imprisoned for one month," the official announcement said.

However, witnesses early Saturday said demonstrators were marching from district to district, chanting slogans calling for the return of multiparty politics and denouncing Friday's shooting incidents in Kathmandu.

Hospital sources said at least 10 people, including three foreigners, died and 160 were injured when riot police opened fire on a crowd of 200,000 anti-government demonstrators in the most violent clashes in seven weeks of opposition protests. Officially, only six people were killed Friday [6 April] and 107 others sustained bullet

and baton injuries. However, opposition sources maintained that between 60 and 90 people had been killed and at least 250 were injured when troops opened fire on demonstrators.

"Many of the injured people were privately treated and others kill on the spot were not officially recorded," opposition Nepali Congress spokesman Mathbir Singh said to explain the contradictory death and injury tolls. Mr. Singh said the army had opened fire on unarmed protestors, mainly students and party activists, in several areas of central Kathmandu Friday.

Later, for the fifth consecutive night people in Kathmandu blacked out their windows and groups of activists emerged into the pitch dark streets to protest against the afternoon shooting incidents, witnesses said. Serious clashes erupted within the capital, where protestors and police were seen fighting until late in the night, a Nepali Congress spokesman confirmed. However, he could not say how many were killed or injured.

"Several rounds of firing were heard in the street but we don't know how many people were killed or injured," one resident said by telephone.

The Nepali Congress spokesman said four tractors and one police jeep were set alight in one part of the capital, while protestors burned down a telephone exchange in another district.

Friday's violent clashes followed the announcement that King Birenda had named a four-member cabinet under Premier Lokendra Bahadur Chand, which ordered an immediate inquiry into ongoing killings and other allegations of human rights abuses. The new restricted cabinet also ordered the release of all people detained in connection with the political unrest that has rocked Nepal since February 18, Nepal Radio said.

In Lalitpur township Saturday, more than 1,000 security personnel were posted to guard the main tourist centre and government establishments, while many tourists remained stranded in their hotels, Nepali Congress leader Ramlal Tamrakar said. All incoming and outgoing international flights were cancelled Saturday as most airport staff and ground crew were unable to get to work because of the curfew, an airport spokesman said, adding that no decision had yet been taken on Sunday's flights.

Further on Curfew

BK0704132090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1307 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 7 (AFP)—Nepalese authorities imposed an indefinite round-the-clock curfew in the capital Saturday [7 April] but pro-democracy protests were reported as residents defied Army troops with shoot-on-sight orders. Lalitpur suburb was included in the Home Ministry curfew order broadcast on state-run radio. The hotspot of Butwal, 260 kilometers (160 miles) southwest of Kathmandu, was also placed under curfew, sources there said.

The situation was reported tense in the southern cities of Janakpur, Jhapa and Chitwan as pro-democracy activists kept up protests to demand an end to the Himalayan kingdom's panchayat political system, which outlaws all parties.

Nepalese Royal Army troops took up positions throughout the capital and suburbs Saturday, guarding sensitive areas. Police were seen moving through the city using loudspeakers to warn people not to violate the curfew order. But witnesses and opposition sources said there were fresh demonstrations in and around Kathmandu early Saturday amid reports of continued shooting in Lalitpur and Bhaktapur suburb, where one report said 15,000 marched. It was impossible to confirm the reports, made by telephone since venturing out was forbidden.

The sources said early Saturday that demonstrators were marching from district to district denouncing Friday's bloody crackdown, when riot police fired on some 200,000 unarmed protestors marching on the royal palace. At least 10 people were killed and 160 injured Friday, according to hospital sources.

"Those who attempt to defy the curfew order may be shot dead by security forces and those who are arrested would be imprisoned for one month," the Home Ministry announcement said. It said the curfew was enforced Saturday morning "for the security of the life and property of the general public and the public establishment."

The curfew prevented many people from fetching sufficient potable water. More than 96 per cent of households in Kathmandu and Lalitpur rely on public water taps.

Demonstrations since mid-February have been demanding that Nepal's partyless panchayat government revert back to the pre-1960 multiparty system.

Reports received Saturday from Butwal said another person was killed by troops controlling demonstrations, bringing the death toll in recent days to at least 13. Scores of others have been injured.

At least three people, including the mother of a three-month-old child, were shot dead in Lalitpur in the early morning, a source in the banned Nepali Congress said. It was not officially confirmed. More than 1,000 security personnel were posted in Lalitpur Saturday to guard the main tourist centre and government buildings, while tourists were stranded in their hotels, Nepali Congress leader Ramlal Tamrakar said.

The curfew was originally announced early Saturday as being 22 hours per day, and was to be lifted between 4:00 P.M. and 6:00 P.M. But by late Saturday, the curfew was made round-the-clock.

All incoming and outgoing international flights were cancelled Saturday as most airport staff and ground crew were unable to get to work because of the curfew, an airport spokesman said.

Curfew Extended in Kathmandu

BK0804024490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0241 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 8 (AFP)—Nepalese authorities widened Sunday [8 April] a curfew imposed Saturday [7 April] in the Kathmandu valley in a bid to head off new demonstrations, state-run Radio Nepal said. The curfew was extended to Bhaktapur, 20 kilometers east of Kathmandu, at 7.00 a.m. (0115 GMT). It was to be in effect for 22 hours, except for a two-hour break between 4.00 p.m. and 6.00 p.m. The curfew imposed Saturday morning on Kathmandu and suburban Lalitpur township was meanwhile extended for a second day to prevent demonstrations and public meetings, said an official announcement broadcast by the radio.

All three townships have been the scene of violent clashes between security forces and demonstrators demanding the restoration of multi-party democracy and greater human rights in the Himalayan kingdom.

Civil servants displaying their identity cards would be allowed to travel to and from their offices during a one-hour period each morning and evening, the announcement said.

Army Leaves Area

BK0904000190 Hong Kong AFP in English 2318 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Kathmandu, April 8 (AFP)—Thousands of Nepalese carried lanterns, rang bells and blew conches as they marched through the capital's dark streets late Sunday [8 April] to celebrate the victory of a democracy movement. Residents took to the streets shortly after Nepalese television announced King Birendra had lifted a 30-year ban on political parties.

There was no announcement that a round-the-clock curfew imposed Saturday [7 April] had been lifted, but security personnel were seen withdrawing from most street corners. Some public buildings remained under guard.

Witnesses said some people were shot dead in Kilagal, Puranobhansar and some other localities in Kathmandu, but these reports were sketchy and could not be confirmed.

Political observers said they fear communist groups led by Mohan Bickram Gharti, Nirmal Lama and others are likely to oppose the king's decision.

The United National Peoples' Union objects to the democratic Nepali Congress' pro-Indian stance and the United Leftist Front's pro-Soviet posture. Both parties launched the campaign on February 18 to restore multiparty politics to Nepal. [passage omitted]

Curfew Lifted; Shooting Continues

BK0904025490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0243 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 9 (AFP)—Nepalese authorities Monday [9 April] lifted a curfew imposed at the weekend in Kathmandu and two satellite towns, Bhaktapur and Lalitpur, the state-run Radio Nepal officially announced. The decision followed King Birendra's decision announced late Sunday [8 April] to lift a 30-year ban on political parties, after some seven weeks of violent protests against the country's partyless panchayat system of government.

Hundreds of people came out of their homes late Sunday to celebrate following the king's move, effectively undermining the curfew imposed Saturday [7 April] on Kathmandu and Lalitpur and widened Sunday to Bhaktapur.

Security personnel were withdrawn from many positions after the king's announcement, but sporadic shooting was heard during the night. Hospital sources confirmed at least one death and five injured.

Tourists in a hotel near Durbar Square heard bursts of automatic weapon fire and screams of pain and saw flares, as troops apparently tried to enforce the curfew and disperse the celebrating crowds.

Six More Deaths Reported

BK0904030690 London BBC World Service in English 0215 GMT 9 Apr 90

[From the "Newsreel" program]

[Text] Two months after the opposition in Nepal began to campaign for political reforms, King Birendra has agreed to lift the ban on political parties and end the nonparty political system. The curfew has now been lifted in Kathmandu. But Mark Tully says six people were killed when security forces fired on people celebrating the news:

[Begin recording] The announcement of the lifting of the ban on political parties was made late last night. People came on to the streets to celebrate in spite of the curfew. They rang bells, blew conch shells and whistles and carried lighted candles. There are reports that the Army opened fire in at least three places, presumably, because they were not aware of the latest political developments and feared that demonstrations against the government were starting again. Doctors on duty in two hospitals say that there have been six deaths. People living in the localities where the Army opened fire say that the number of the dead will be higher. Radio Nepal has now announced that the two-day curfew has been lifted. The sources said that a constitutional commission will report to the king on the changes needed to make the country a multiparty democracy after consulting the leaders of the political parties. Nothing has been said of the other demands of the two political groups who launched the campaign for multiparty democracy which has brought

about this major change in the country. These demands include the formation of an interim government and the holding of elections. The general secretary of the Nepali Congress, the country's largest party, has already called on the king to dissolve the National Panchayat or council, the equivalent of parliament under the present system. If that happens, an interim government will have to be formed and there will have to be elections. There is likely to be two difficulties in the negotiations which must now take place. The first is the position of the king himself. He will have to shed some of his present powers. But the question is how many? The second is the future of the politicians who are members of the present panchayat or council movement and have opposed the introduction of multiparty democracy. They will expect the king to protect their interests. [end recording]

King Names 'Restricted Four-Member Cabinet'

BK0704003690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1741 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 6 (AFP)—Nepal's King Birendra on Friday [6 April] named a restricted four-member cabinet under Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand, state-run Radio Nepal said. Mr. Chand will hold the defence, royal palace affairs, general administration, housing and physical planning portfolios, the radio said.

Pashupati Rana will be in charge of foreign affairs and finance, as well as water resources and communications, it added.

Nain Bahadur Swanr, former chairman of the national Panchayat (Parliament), was named minister of home affairs, law and justice, industry and commerce, supply, panchayat affairs, local development, forests and soil conservation.

Achyut Raj Regmi will hold the education, culture, agriculture, tourism, health, labour and social welfare, land reform and management portfolios, the Nepal radio said.

Analysts said the new government was expected to be only an interim administration to help open a dialogue between Mr. Chand and the political opposition.

Detainees Freed; Inquiry Commission Created

BK0704004490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1759 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 6 (AFP)—The Nepalese Government has released all persons detained under the Public Security Act since February 18, when a series of demonstrations for multiparty democracy began here, state-run Radio Nepal said Friday night [6 April]. An official statement broadcast by the radio also announced the creation of a special judicial inquiry commission into allegations of human rights abuses and the killings of demonstrators here and elsewhere in Nepal.

The radio said all political prisoners held in connection with the protests, launched jointly by the opposition Nepali Congress and the united leftist front, had been released. Those arrested on criminal charges would remain under detention, the official announcement said.

It said the country's new four-man cabinet had named a three-member judicial inquiry commission led by Supreme Court Justice Prachand Raj Anil. The commission has been given 30 days to report on "alleged violations of human rights and the killing of innocent people" when police opened fire on the demonstrators, the radio said.

It said the other two members of the body were Hari Prasad Sharma and Kedar Nath Acharya, both members of the central regional court.

Officials Urge King To End Partyless System

BK0704162490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1609 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 7 (AFP)—Pressure mounted Saturday [7 April] for King Birendra to meet popular demands and end Nepal's 30-year-old partyless panchayat government and restore multiparty democracy.

"The very establishment of our country is at stake," former Commerce and Industry Minister Rabindra Nath Sharma said Saturday in a statement. Mr. Sharma and other senior members of the national panchayat (parliament) openly appealed to the king Saturday to immediately dissolve the parliament to stop further killing and to save the nation. The Himalayan kingdom's panchayat system has banned all political parties since coming into effect in 1960.

"I appeal to the king to rise above partisan politics and dissolve the national panchayat to meet the demand of multiparty supporters," said Mr. Sharma, an elected member of parliament from Nawalparasi.

"This is the only way to save the crown and the country," he added. "If proper steps are not taken immediately, every gesture made after that will prove ineffective to defuse the situation."

A round-the-clock curfew was imposed in the capital Saturday after riot police fired on unarmed pro-democracy protestors marching on the royal palace on Friday, killing at least 10 and wounding 160 according to hospital sources.

"After the bloodbath on Palace Road, and the 24 hour curfew order, the next step of the king is expected to be either martial law or the declaration of a multiparty system," one respected political observer said.

Analysts said that martial law would fail to settle the crisis, citing the ineffectiveness of the king's sacking of Marich Man Singh Shrestha as premier Friday [6 April] and the order to release all political detainees.

"What has been done, it was done too late, and what has been given was too little of what the opposition demanded," a leading panchayat member said.

Prakash Chandra Lohani, housing and physical planning minister under Mr. Shrestha, said: "It would be wise on the part of the king to declare a multiparty system of government through the dissolution of the panchayat system."

The king on Friday constituted the smallest-ever Council of Ministers in the history of the 30-year-old panchayat system under the new prime minister, Lokendra Bahadur Chand. The move was apparently made to allow room for a few ministers from the opposition, led by the banned Nepali Congress and United Leftist Front which launched the nationwide pro-democracy movement on February 18.

The constitution stipulates that only members of the national panchayat can be appointed to a ministerial post. But King Birendra's emergency powers give him the right to sack or appoint anyone he chooses. By leaving posts open in the Council of Ministers, political analysts said the king gave himself the option of including opposition members in the Chand administration to help resolve the political crisis.

But the opposition has vowed to press on with the democracy campaign, refusing to hold a dialogue with government leaders unless the panchayat system is abolished. Opposition leaders said the Friday killings proved the king's conciliatory moves futile and only fuelled public anger.

After Mr. Chand was named premier and political prisoners ordered released, he visited Ganesh Man Singh, supreme leader of the Nepali Congress, to offer to begin a dialogue. Mr. Singh, currently in hospital after being under house arrest since the democracy movement began, flatly rejected starting any talks until a multiparty system is declared, a reliable opposition source said.

Prime Minister Meets Nepali Congress Leader

BK0704132490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Excerpts] In Nepal, the situation in the curfew-bound Kathmandu and Patan towns continues to be tense. The two-hour curfew relaxation announced earlier for this evening has been withdrawn. Army personnel with automatic weapons continue to patrol the streets of Kathmandu and Patan. As earlier reported, at least 22 persons were killed and 100 injured when police fired on demonstrators in Kathmandu yesterday. [passage omitted]

Our Kathmandu correspondent, Harish Segon, reports that immediately after assuming office yesterday, the prime minister, Mr. Chand, announced that his government is ready for an immediate dialogue with other parties.

Mr. Lokendra Bahadur Chand called on the Nepali Congress leader, Mr. Ganesh Man Singh, at a hospital in Kathmandu today where he is undergoing treatment. It has been described as a courtesy call.

According to an official release, the Indian Airlines today canceled its flights to and from Kathmandu in view of the serious civil unrest there.

Government Officials Meet Opposition Leaders

BK0804002290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0011 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 8 (AFP)—New Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand conferred Saturday [7 April] with two senior opposition leaders in a first step toward defusing the political crisis in Nepal, sources close to the premier said. Mr. Chand conferred with Ganesh Man Singh, the most senior leader of the banned Nepali Congress, and Mana Mohan Adhikari of the United Leftist Front at Bir Hospital, the sources said.

Mr. Singh, currently in hospital after being under house arrest since the movement for multiparty democracy formally began on February 18, has rejected talks until a multiparty system is declared, a reliable opposition source said earlier.

The newly appointed foreign minister, Pashupati Rana, called on Nepali Congress President Krishna Prasad Bhattarai at his residence, they added. Education and Culture Minister Achut Raj Regmi meanwhile met Nepali Congress General Secretary G.P. Koirala, also to prepare the ground for dialogue.

Sources in banned political parties said no dialogue has started so far, and said there is no question of holding any talks until King Birendra lifts the ban imposed on all political parties sine December 1960.

The round-the-clock curfew imposed early Saturday in the capital of Kathmandu was likely to continue until Monday evening as outlawed parties had planned that afternoon to burn the constitution in protest against the partyless panchayat system.

King Birendra on Friday [6 April] dismissed the government of Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha, saying it had failed to maintain law and order and protect the lives of Nepalese people.

At least 10 people were killed and 160 wounded later Friday when police fired on an estimated crowd of 200,000 people near the royal palace. They were protesting the king's dismissal of the government, saying it was a measure insufficient to ensure a return to multiparty democracy.

Opposition Wants New System Before Dialogue

BK0804091890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] The leaders of the banned Nepali Congress and the United Left Front have conveyed to King Birendra that multiparty system must be announced before there can be any dialogue to solve the present crisis. Our Kathmandu correspondent reports the Nepalese prime minister, Mr. Lokendra Bahadur Chand, called on the Nepali Congress leader, Mr. Ganesh Man Singh, at a local hospital, and the foreign minister, Mr. Pashupati Shamsher, met the Nepali Congress president, Mr. K.P. Bhattarai, and the United Left Front leader, Mr. Adhikari.

Our correspondent understands that the offer of dialogue was turned down by all of them, saying that a multiparty system must be announced first.

In a statement, four members of the Rashtriya Panchayat [Parliament] appealed to King Birendra to dissolve the Rashtriya Panchayat and form an interim government consisting of all groups to usher in multiparty system.

Meanwhile, tension continues to grip the Kathmandu valley with curfew extended till tomorrow morning in the towns of Kathmandu, Patan, and Bhaktapur. Unconfirmed reports from these places speak of sporadic firing by the security forces. The number of casualties is not known.

King To Declare Multiparty System

BK0804165690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1652 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 8 (AFP)—King Birendra met with top oppostion leaders here Sunday [8 April] and agreed to lift a 30-year ban on political parties and declare a multiparty system, opposition sources close to the talks said. Sources within the banned Nepali Congress told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that the king was expected to declare the dissolution of the partyless Panchayat system later Sunday or Monday [9 April].

The sources quoted general secretary of the Nepali Congress, Girija Prasad Koirala, who was present at the meeting with the king at the royal palace. No official confirmation was immediately available.

Ban 'Lifted' on Multiparty System

BK0804173690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1731 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 8 (AFP)—King Birendra of Nepal on Sunday [8 April] lifted a 30-year ban on a multiparty system to defuse seven weeks of political turmoil, Nepal Television (NTV) reported.

Opposition Calms Movement

BK0904001190 Hong Kong AFP in English 2003 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 8 (AFP)—King Birendra bowed to popular pressure Sunday and lifted a 30-year ban on political parties to defuse seven weeks of bloody political turmoil in Nepal. The opposition agreed in turn to call off a nationwide democracy movement.

Thousands of Nepalese carried lanterns, rang bells and blew conches as they marched through the capital's dark streets to celebrate the victory of the movement.

"This is a welcome step of his majesty the king," said Girija Prasad Koirala, general secretary of the opposition Nepali Congress, which along with the United Leftist Front (ULF) launched the movement February 18.

The king's announcement, made in a special broadcast on state-run Nepal television, paved the way for a return to multiparty democracy in the world's only Hindu kingdom, banned by his late father King Mahendra in 1960. The Harvard-educated monarch directed a constitutional reform commission to delete the word "partyless" from the 1962 Constitution.

Scores of pro-democracy protestors have been killed or wounded and thousands arrested since the campaign against the Himalayan kingdom's partyless panchayat political system began. There were sketchy and unconfirmed reports from witnesses of shooting deaths Sunday night in some districts here.

The historic announcements followed a meeting late Sunday between the king and four senior leaders of Nepal's banned parties at the royal palace. It was the first such meeting ever held. The opposition had demanded a dialogue with the king since they felt he was the only one with real power to meet their demands.

Present at the talks were Mr. Koirala and Nepali Congress President Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, chairperson of the ULF socialist coalition Sahana Pradhan, and Radha Krishna Mainali, head of the Nepal Communist Party, opposition sources said.

The broadcast said that the 44-year-old king made his decision in accordance with the tradition of governing the country based on the people's aspirations and democratic values.

"We hope that his majesty would dissolve the national panchayat (parliament) soon," Mr. Koirala said after officially announcing that the opposition campaign would be called off. The other leading opposition figures present at the meeting with the king echoed their support for the monarch's bold move.

The opposition was expected to stage a formal victory demonstration Monday.

Curfews would be lifted in the major cities of Kathmandu valley, as well as elsewhere, an official said. Troops were already being withdrawn late Sunday from street corners, although some public buildings were still under guard.

A curfew was imposed and troops brought into the capital Saturday following the worst violence in the democracy campaign a day earlier, when riot police opened fire on a crowd of 200,000 protestors marching on the royal palace. At least 10 people were killed and 160 wounded, according to hospital sources, but the death toll was probably much higher.

Mr. Koirala had earlier told Nepal television that his party and the ULF would oppose any acts of violence by extremists. He said he believed that the Nepali Congress and ULF could jointly isolate any such elements.

Nepal's three-day-old cabinet, led by Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand, was also present at the royal palace during the talks between King Birendra and the opposition leaders.

The king sacked the government of Premier Marich Man Singh Shrestha on Friday and also announced the release of most political detainees in an unsuccessful bid to end the political crisis. The opposition had vowed to pursue its campaign until democracy was restored.

Power in Nepal is technically shared between the parliament and the king, but the monarch has considerable influence over government policies. The king nominated one-fifth of the parliament's 140 members.

More on Lifting Ban

BK0904010290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0035 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] King Birendra of Nepal has conceded the demands of the Nepali Congress and the United Left Front for a multiparty system in the country. The ban on the formation of political parties has been lifted and the word partyless stands deleted in the constitution. This was announced over Radio Nepal and TV last night. AIR [All India Radio] Kathmandu correspondent, Harish Segon, reports that the announcement of a multiparty system followed a meeting at Narayanhiti Palace between King Birendra and the Nepali Congress leaders, Mr. Bhattarai, and Mr. G.P. Koirala, and the United Left Front leaders, Mrs. Sahana Pradhan and Mr. Radha Kishen Mainali. As a result of this, the Nepali Congress and the United Left Front have decided to withdraw their movement. There was jubilation in Kathmandu after the king's announcement. Firecrackers were let off and people on rooftops cheered loudly.

Consultations for Interim Government Begin

OW0904114390 Tokyo KYODO in English 1122 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 9, KYODO—Nepalese in the Himalayan kingdom capital and the adjoining cities of Lalitpur and Bhaktapur on Monday [9 April] poured into the streets to celebrate their newly gained democracy, as leaders of the campaign for multiparty democracy began consultations for an interim government. A senior pro-democracy campaigner and human rights activist Kapil Shrestha said the negotiations are being carried out with the government of Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand. The 50-year-old prime minister was given the task by King Birendra last Friday [6 April].

Shrestha said the interim government will order general elections. He said a new Constitution replacing the present partyless one will be drafted in the near future.

Streets in the three cities filled with people on foot or in vehicles carrying flags of the Nepali Congress and the leftist alliance.

Many gathered briefly in front of the hospital where the 76-year-old leader of the pro-democracy movement, Ganesh Man Singh, is being treated for a urinary infection. Crowds doused each other with red vermilion power—a traditional Nepalese symbol of good luck.

Some crowds were still demanding punishment of former Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha and his Minister of State for Home Affairs Niranjan Thapa.

Pro-democracy campaign organizers said a victory parade as well as a tribute to those who died in the campaign were being planned for this week.

Crowds also gathered at the base of a statue of the late King Mahendra, father of King Birendra, to view footwear believed to be those of demonstrators killed Friday evening. Parts of the pedestal leading up to the statue lay in ruins.

Several hundred workers held by the government in different parts of the kingdom since the beginning of the pro-democracy campaign in February were yet to be released as promised by Prime Minister Chand.

Meanwhile, life was returning to normal in all three cities affected by the demonstrations and international flights resumed at Tribhuvan Airport in Kathmandu. Two planes carrying tourists flew out Sunday evening [8 April]and Royal Nepal Airlines was running flights on schedule Monday morning, an official at the airport said.

Pakistan

'At Least Seven' Killed in Karachi Clashes

BK0704005490 Hong Kong AFP in English 2122 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] Karachi, April 7 (AFP)—At least seven people, including a policeman, were killed and more than 20 injured in clashes between supporters of the ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and the opposition Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) here, ambulance sources said Saturday [7 April].

Paramilitary rangers and police reinforcement were patrolling the central district of this largest city in Pakistan to avoid further bloodshed, they said.

The fighting broke out Friday [6 April] after members of the All Pakistan Muhajir Students Organization (APMSO), the youth wing of the MQM representing Urdu-speaking settlers from India, fired on the former president of the ruling party's People's Student Federation (PSF) in the central part of the city, witnesses said.

Najib Ahmed received eight bullet wounds and was listed in critical condition, hospital sources said.

The incident touched off retaliatory PSF attacks on MQM and APMSO militants in different parts of the central district which left at least seven dead and more than 20 injured, witnesses said. Police made a number of arrests and recovered weapons in a bid to stem the fighting.

The attack on the former PSF president has been linked with an armed clash between supporters of PSF and APMSO in the Urdu Science College here Thursday [5 April] in which one student was killed. The clashes are the worst since the violent February 7 MQM-backed strike which left more than 70 people killed and 200 injured in 72 hours of fighting. The youth wings of the main Pakistani political parties are heavily armed with illegal automatic weapons which have been used indiscriminately in recent ethnic clashes in the troubled southern Sind Province.

Overnight Clashes Claim 11

BK0704083790 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] Eleven people were killed in Karachi during nightlong armed clashes among the incidents of sniper firing. The official sources have told Radio Pakistan's Karachi representative that eight people, including a policeman, were killed during exchanges of fire in various parts of the city last night. Three people were killed in the incidents of sniper firing late last night and early this morning in different parts of the city. Rangers and police reinforcements have been called in sensitive areas for patrolling. Police have made a number of arrests and recovered weapons. The situation in all the affected areas is now under control. All the city colleges have been closed indefinitely from today.

Meanwhile, two persons were crushed to death by a speeding minibus near Express Market in Karachi this morning. Police have arrested the driver. The minibus was set on fire by the angry mob. However, the situation is under control and traffic is plying smoothly in the area.

2 More Killed

BK0804080690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] The commissioner of Karachi told APP last night that about 24 persons involved in Friday night's [6 April] shooting incidents have been arrested, and strict measures are being taken to control the situation.

According to a news agency report, two more persons were killed and 10 others injured in indiscriminate shooting by unknown men in Karachi last night.

Muhajir Leader Hunger Strikes

BK0904045290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] Altaf Hussain, the Muhajir Qaumi Movement [MQM] leader, started a hunger strike until death in Karachi last evening [8 April] to press for his demands. Addressing the MQM workers on the occasion, he said that he will continue the hunger strike until the government assures it will protect the lives of muhajirs and arrest those who murder innocent people. Altaf Hussain asked his party workers to maintain law and order, adding that they do not want to disturb peace in the city.

A spokesman of the Sind government has described Hussain's claim that he is staging a hunger strike because no arrests have been made in the recent violence as incorrect. The spokesman said in Karachi that following indiscriminate firing Friday [6 April] night by rival groups, the administration arrested more than 16 persons that same night. Prominent leaders of student groups were not exempted from the stern and impartial action which is still continuing. The spokesman said that all the complaints by relatives of the deceased persons or eyewitnesses are being duly recorded by the police. He said that despite the fact that no person has been named except in one First Information Report, police are making a through investigation of these complaints. Special teams have also been formed to investigate these complaints in an effort to arrest the miscreants. The spokesman said that the MQM leader's hunger strike is an attempt to sensationalize.

The Pakistan People's Party [PPP] national and provincial assembly members of Karachi in a joint statement have urged the government not to be disturbed by the MQM leader's hunger strike. They alleged that Altaf Hussain started the hunger strike because the MQM's involvement in killing innocent people has been fully exposed.

Islamic Democratic Alliance Chief and Punjab Chief Minister Nawaz Sharif has made a statement expressing regret over the loss of life in the recent Karachi incidents and assuring Karachi residents that people throughout the country, especially in Punjab, equally share their grief.

Army Called In; More Killed

BK0904045890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] In Pakistan, troops have been called out in Karachi to prevent the outbreak of violence following the chief of the Muhajir Qaumi Movement, MQM, Mr. Altaf Hussain, going on a fast until death last evening. Mr. Hussain is protesting against the killing of MQM workers in armed clashes in Karachi over the past few days. He has demanded that the killers be brought to book.

Meanwhile, sniper firing continued for the third day in Karachi yesterday, resulting in two more deaths, raising the number of those killed to 20, with over 40 injured. Hyderabad city also experienced incidents of terrorism yesterday in which two persons were killed by unknown gunmen.

Sri Lanka

Opposition Leader Calls for 'United Campaign'

BK0604090090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0631 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] Colombo, April 6 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's main opposition leader has called for a united campaign against the government of President Ranasinghe Premadasa, accusing it of attempting to terrorise the opposition into submission. Former Prime Minister Sirima Bandaranaike made the appeal at a meeting of five major opposition parties here Thursday [5 April], the first such gathering since the bloodied general elections in February last year.

"The reason why we in the opposition are gathered here today is to fight the cost of living, to fight terror and to defend human rights," she told the meeting at the government's new town hall.

Nearly 3,000 people, mostly men and including a sprinkling of Buddhist monks, packed the building cheering Mrs. Bandaranaike and other opposition leaders, including her daughter Chandrika Kumaranatunga of the four-party United Socialist Alliance. At least 1,000 more who could not squeeze into the hall listened to the militant speeches from outside. The meeting lasted almost four hours and ended late Thursday.

Mrs. Bandaranaike, who heads the left-of-centre Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) and was premier from 1970 to 1977, asked all opposition groups including Tamil parties to unite against the government. The veteran politician accused the government of "brutally killing" members of her party and said security forces, contrary to official claims, were still conducting regular raids in the night to apprehend opposition activists.

Hundreds of people were killed across much of Sri Lanka during a 1989 crackdown on anti-government rebels, when it was a common sight to see bodies burning by the roadside. Most of the killings were blamed on vigilante groups.

Mrs. Bandaranaike also flayed the government for permitting the dominant Tamil group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, to carry arms. Colombo began peace talks with the Tigers in April.

There have been reports here that Mrs. Bandaranaike wants her 44-year-old daughter, Mrs. Kumaranatunga, to join the SLFP and take over its leadership. It was not yet known if Mrs. Kumaranatunga has accepted the offer. Mrs. Kumaranatunga returned to Sri Lanka Tuesday [3 April] after a self-imposed exile in Europe following the assassination of her husband Vijaya Kumaranatunga here in February 1988.